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(54) **Poly-N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG/DPNAG)-binding peptides and methods of use thereof**

Poly-N-acetylglucosamin (PNAG/DPNAG)-bindenden Peptide und Verwendungsverfahren dafür
Peptides à liaison de glucosamine poly-N-acétyle (PNAG/DPNAG) et procédés d'utilisation

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(73) Proprietors:
• **The Brigham and Women's Hospital, Inc.
Boston, MA 02115 (US)**
• **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc.
Boston, MA 02215 (US)**

(72) Inventors:
• **Pier, Gerald B
Brookline, MA 02446 (US)**
• **Kelly-Quintos, Casie Anne
Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (US)**
• **Cavacini, Lisa
Natick, MA 01760 (US)**
• **Posner, Marshall R
Mount Vernon, NY 10552 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Kirkham, Nicholas Andrew et al
Graham Watt & Co. LLP
St. Botolph's House
7-9 St. Botolph's Road
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AJ (GB)**

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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Description**Field of the Invention**

[0001] This invention relates generally to peptides that bind to poly-N-acetyl glucosamine (pNAG) and deacetylated PNAG (dPNAG) of bacteria such as *Staphylococcus*, and their use in the diagnosis and treatment of *Staphylococcal* and other PNAG-expressing bacterial infections.

Background of the Invention

[0002] Maira-Litran T et al: "Immunochemical Properties of the Staphylococcal Poly-N-Acetylgucosamine Surface Polysaccharide", *Infection and Immunity*, American Society for Microbiology, US, vol. 70, no.8, August 2002, pages 4433-4440. Maira-Litran T et al: "Biologic properties and vaccine potential of the staphylococcal poly-N-acetyl glucosamine surface polysaccharide", *Vaccine*, Butterworth Scientific, GB, vol. 22, no.7, 17 February 2004, pages 872-879.

[0003] *Staphylococci* are gram-positive bacteria which normally inhabit and colonize the skin and mucus membranes of humans. If the skin or mucus membrane becomes damaged during surgery or other trauma, the *Staphylococci* may gain access to internal tissues causing infection to develop. If the *Staphylococci* proliferate locally or enter the lymphatic or blood system, serious infectious complications such as those associated with *Staphylococcal* bacteremia may result. Complications associated with *Staphylococcal* bacteremia include septic shock, endocarditis, arthritis, osteomyelitis, pneumonia, and abscesses in various organs.

[0004] *Staphylococci* include both coagulase positive organisms that produce a free coagulase and coagulase negative organisms that do not produce this free coagulase. *Staphylococcus aureus* is the most common coagulase-positive form of *Staphylococci*. *S. aureus* generally causes infection at a local site, either extravascular or intravascular, which ultimately may result in bacteremia. *S. aureus* is also a leading cause of acute osteomyelitis and causes *Staphylococcal* pneumonia infections. Additionally, *S. aureus* is responsible for approximately 1-9% of the cases of bacterial meningitis and 10-15% of brain abscesses.

[0005] There are at least twenty-one known species of coagulase-negative *Staphylococci*, including *S. epidermidis*, *S. saprophyticus*, *S. hominis*, *S. warneri*, *S. haemolyticus*, *S. saprophiticus*, *S. cohnii*, *S. xylosus*, *S. simulans*, and *S. capitis*. *S. epidermidis* is the most frequent infection-causing agent associated with intravenous access devices and the most frequent isolate in primary nosocomial bacteremias. *S. epidermidis* is also associated with prosthetic valve endocarditis.

[0006] *Staphylococcus* is also a common source of bacterial infections in animals. For instance, *Staphylococcal* mastitis is a common problem in ruminants including cattle, sheep, and goats. The disease is generally treated with antibiotics to reduce the infection but the treatment is a costly procedure and still results in a loss of milk production. The most effective vaccines for livestock identified to date are live, intact *S. aureus* vaccines administered subcutaneously. The administration of live vaccines, however, is associated with the risk of infection and with toxic reactions. For that reason, many researchers have attempted to produce killed *S. aureus* vaccines and/or to isolate capsular polysaccharides or cell wall components which will induce immunity to *S. aureus*. None of these attempts, however, has been successful.

Summary of the Invention

[0007] The present invention is defined in the appended claims. The disclosure relates generally to the identification and use of peptides that bind to poly-N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG) such as *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG), and poorly acetylated or deacetylated PNAG (collectively referred to herein as dPNAG). These peptides are referred to herein as PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptides. Examples of such peptides include those having amino acid sequences derived from complementarity determining regions (CDRs) or variable regions of antibodies described herein or produced from hybridomas deposited with the ATCC on April 21, 2004, under Accession Nos. PTA-5931 (F598), PTA-5932 (F628) and PTA-5933 (F630). These peptides include but are not limited to polypeptides, monoclonal antibodies (such as human monoclonal antibodies) and antibody fragments. A common feature of the peptides disclosed herein is their ability to recognize and bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG specifically. PNAG and/or dPNAG expressed by other bacterial strains may also be recognized and bound by the peptides of the invention. An important characteristic of some of the antibodies and antibody fragments provided by the invention is their ability to enhance opsonization and phagocytosis (i.e., opsonophagocytosis) of bacterial strains, such as *Staphylococcal* species, that express PNAG.

[0008] Thus, in one aspect, the disclosure provides a composition comprising an isolated peptide that selectively binds to *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG/dPNAG) and comprises an amino acid sequence of a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR, or functionally equivalent variant thereof.

[0009] In one embodiment, the *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR is a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-bind-

ing CDR3. The *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3 may comprise an amino acid sequence of a heavy chain CDR3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:21 or it may comprise an amino acid sequence of a heavy chain CDR3 derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933. The *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3 may comprise an amino acid sequence of a light chain CDR3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:18, and SEQ ID NO: 24 or it may comprise an amino acid sequence of a light chain CDR3 derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0010] In another embodiment, the *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR is a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR2. The *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR2 may comprise an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:20 and SEQ ID NO:23 or it may comprise an amino acid sequence of a CDR2 derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0011] In another embodiment, the *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR is a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR1. The *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR1 may comprise an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:19 and SEQ ID NO:22 or it may comprise an amino acid sequence of a CDR1 derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0012] In one embodiment, the isolated peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:5 or an amino acid sequence of a heavy chain variable region derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0013] In another embodiment, the isolated peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:6 or an amino acid sequence of a light chain variable region derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0014] In one embodiment, the isolated peptide is an isolated antibody or antibody fragment, such as but not limited to an isolated intact, preferably soluble, monoclonal antibody or an isolated monoclonal antibody fragment such as but not limited to an F(ab')₂ fragment an Fd fragment and an Fab fragment. The isolated antibody may be an antibody produced from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933, or an antibody fragment thereof.

[0015] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antibody fragment enhances opsonophagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacterial strains (e.g., *Staphylococci* such as but not limited to *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis*).

[0016] In one embodiment, the isolated antibody or antibody fragment comprises an amino acid sequence comprising a heavy chain variable region and selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:5, and an amino acid sequence comprising a light chain variable region and selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:6. In another embodiment, the isolated antibody or antibody fragment comprises an amino acid sequence comprising a heavy chain variable region derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933, and an amino acid sequence comprising light chain variable region derived from a deposited hybridoma having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0017] The isolated antibody or antibody fragment may comprise an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 and an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, or an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 and an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

[0018] The isolated antibody or antibody fragment may comprise an amino acid sequence of a heavy chain variable region derived from deposited hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931 (F598) and an amino acid sequence comprising light chain variable region derived from deposited hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931 (F598), or an amino acid sequence of a heavy chain variable region derived from deposited hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5932 (F628) and an amino acid sequence comprising light chain variable region derived from deposited hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5932 (F628), or an amino acid sequence of a heavy chain variable region derived from deposited hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5933 (F630) and an amino acid sequence comprising light chain variable region derived from deposited hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5933 (F630).

[0019] In one embodiment, the isolated peptide is conjugated to a detectable label. The detectable label may be an *in vivo* or an *in vitro* detectable label.

[0020] In one embodiment, the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In other embodiments, the isolated peptide such as the isolated antibody or antibody fragment is present in an effective amount for inhibiting an infection by a bacterial strain expressing PNAG (such as a *Staphylococcal* infection) or in an effective amount for detecting a bacterial strain expressing PNAG (such as *Staphylococci*) in a sample in or from a subject.

[0021] In one embodiment, the isolated peptide selectively binds to *Staphylococcal* PNAG. In another embodiment, the isolated peptide selectively binds to *Staphylococcal* dPNAG.

[0022] In yet another aspect, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR.

[0023] In one embodiment, the nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO:21 and SEQ ID NO:24. In another embodiment, the nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.

[0024] In one embodiment, the nucleic acid is a heavy chain variable region nucleic acid molecule derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid is a light chain variable region nucleic acid molecule derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933. In yet another embodiment, the nucleic acid is a heavy chain CDR nucleic acid molecule derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933 or it is a light chain CDR nucleic acid molecule derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 or PTA-5933.

[0025] The invention further provides, in other aspects, expression vectors comprising the afore-mentioned isolated nucleic acid molecules, operably linked to a promoter and cells transformed or transfected with such expression vectors.

[0026] In other aspects, the disclosure provides an isolated cell producing an anti-*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG monoclonal antibody (F598) and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931, an isolated cell producing an anti-*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG monoclonal antibody (F628) and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932, and an isolated cell producing an anti-*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG monoclonal antibody (F630) and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933. The disclosure further provides, in additional aspects, the isolated monoclonal antibody produced by the aforementioned deposited isolated cells, or antibody fragments thereof. The antibody fragment may be but it not limited to an F(ab')₂ fragment, an Fd fragment or an Fab fragment. In a related embodiment, the fragment enhances opsonophagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacterial strains (e.g., *Staphylococci* such as but not limited to *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis*).

[0027] In another aspect, the disclosure provides a method for detecting bacterial strains expressing PNAG (such as *Staphylococci*) in a subject or a sample from a subject. The method comprises determining a test level of binding of an isolated peptide or a functionally equivalent variant thereof to a sample in or from a subject, and comparing the test level of binding to a control, wherein the isolated peptide selectively binds to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG and comprises a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR, or a functionally equivalent variant thereof, and wherein a test level of binding that is greater than the control is indicative of the presence of the bacterial strain (e.g., *Staphylococci*) in the sample. The bacteria to be detected may be *Staphylococci*, *E. coli*, *Yersinia pestis* (*Y. pestis*), *Y. enterocolitica*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* (*X. axonopodis*), *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*P. fluorescens*), *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*), *A. pleuropneumoniae*, *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*), *B. parapertussis* or *B. bronchiseptica*. The invention also provides methods for detecting and treating plant infections by bacteria expressing PNAG such as *Ralstonia solanacearum* (*R. solanacearum*).

[0028] In one embodiment, the test level of binding is measured *in vitro*.

[0029] In another aspect, the disclosure provides a method for treating a subject having, or at risk of developing, an infection by a bacterial strain expressing PNAG (e.g., a *Staphylococcal* infection). The method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an isolated peptide that selectively binds to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG, and comprises a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR or a functionally equivalent variant thereof, in an amount effective to inhibit the infection. In another embodiment, the isolated peptide is conjugated to a cytotoxic agent.

[0030] In one embodiment, the subject has or is at risk of developing a *Staphylococcal* infection, such as but not limited to *S. aureus* or *S. epidermidis* infection. In another embodiment, the subject has or is at risk of developing an *E. coli*, *Yersinia pestis* (*Y. pestis*), *Y. enterocolitica*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* (*X. axonopodis*), *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*P. fluorescens*), *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*), *A. pleuropneumoniae*, *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*), *B. parapertussis* or *B. bronchiseptica* infection.

[0031] The foregoing bacterial infections underlie conditions such as gastroenteritis, urinarytract infections, plague, whooping cough, bloodstream infections and dental infections (periodontitis). The disclosure intends to treat these latter conditions by treating underlying the bacterial infection. The detection and treatment methods provided herein are suitable for human and non-human subjects that have or are at risk of developing such infections. Non-human subjects include agricultural animals such as cows and pigs, but are not so limited.

[0032] *Ralstonia solanacearum* (*R. solanacearum*) is another PNAG expressing bacteria, however it is considered a plant rather than an animal pathogen. The invention contemplates detection and treatment of plant species having such infections using the binding peptides provided herein, preferably conjugated to a detectable or cytotoxic label, depending on the method.

[0033] In yet another aspect, the disclosure provides a method for treating an infection by a bacterial strain that expresses PNAG (e.g., *Staphylococcal* infection) comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptide that reduces bacterial load in a subject by at least 50% in at least 4 hours after exposure to a bacterium that expresses PNAG in an amount effective to treat the infection.

[0034] In one embodiment, the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptide is an isolated antibody or antibody fragment. In one embodiment, the infection is a *Staphylococcal* infection. In one embodiment, the *Staphylococcal* infection is an *S. aureus* infection or an *S. epidermidis* infection. In another embodiment, the infection is an *E. coli*, *Yersinia pestis* (*Y. pestis*), *Y.*

enterocolitica, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* (*X. axonopodis*), *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*P. fluorescens*), *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*), *A. pleuropneumoniae*, *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*), *B. paraptussis* or *B. bronchiseptica* infection. *Ralstonia solanacearum* (*R. solanacearum*) infections are also contemplated by the invention, although these affect plants rather than animals. In another embodiment, the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptide is administered prior to exposure to the bacterium, such as but not limited to at least 24 hours prior to exposure to the bacterium.

[0035] In one embodiment, the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptide reduces bacterial load in a subject by at least 60% in at least 4 hours after exposure to the bacterium. In another embodiment, the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptide reduces bacterial load in a subject by at least 50% in 2 hours after exposure to the bacterium. In yet another embodiment, the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptide reduces bacterial load in a subject by at least 60% in 2 hours after exposure to the bacterium. Bacteria that express PNAG include but are not limited to *Staphylococci*, *E. coli*, *Yersinia pestis* (*Y. pestis*), *Y. enterocolitica*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* (*X. axonopodis*), *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*P. fluorescens*), *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*), *A. pleuropneumoniae*, *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*), *B. paraptussis* and *B. bronchiseptica*, which affect animals, and *Ralstonia solanacearum* (*R. solanacearum*) which affects plants.

[0036] These and other embodiments will be described in greater detail herein.

Brief Description of the Figures

[0037]

FIG. 1 is a graph showing the binding affinities of monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) F598, F628 and F630 (in an IgG2 form) to native PNAG. MAb to *P. aeruginosa* MEP is used as a negative control.

FIG. 2 is a graph showing the binding affinities of MAbs F598, F628 and F630 (in an IgG2 form) to dPNAG.

FIG. 3 is a graph showing the results of a competition ELISA using PNAG and MAbs F598, F628 and F630 (in an IgG2 form).

FIG. 4 is a graph showing the binding affinities of MAbs F598, F628 and F630 (in an IgG1 form) to native PNAG.

FIG. 5 is a graph showing the binding affinities of MAbs F598, F628 and F630 (in an IgG1 form) to dPNAG.

FIG. 6 is a graph showing complement fixation activity of MAbs F598, F628 and F630 in both IgG1 and IgG2 form on PNAG. MAb to *P. aeruginosa* MEP is used as a negative control.

FIG. 7 is a graph showing the opsonophagocytic activity of MAbs F598, F628 and F630 in IgG1 and IgG2 form against *S. aureus* strain Mn8.

FIG. 8A is a bar graph showing averaged results comparing levels of *Staphylococci* in the blood of mice (8 per group) given either a control human IgG1 MAb to *P. aeruginosa* alginate or MAb F598 specific to PNAG/dPNAG (in an IgG1 form) and demonstrating that MAb F598 can provide passive protection against *S. aureus* challenge.

FIG. 8B is a graph showing the results of protection against *S. aureus* challenge in individual mice, reporting the CFU per ml of blood following administration of a control human IgG1 MAb to *P. aeruginosa* alginate and MAb F598 specific for PNAG/dPNAG (in an IgG1 form).

FIG. 8C is a graph showing the results of protection against *S. aureus* challenge in individual FVB mice using MAb F598 and control MAb to *P. aeruginosa* MEP.

FIG. 9 is an immunoblot showing PNAG expression by *E. coli* UTI strains labeled D-U and including an *E. coli* *pga* over-expressing isolate (top right hand corner).

FIG. 10 is a bar graph showing the level of killing of *E. coli* isolates using polyclonal antiserum raised against *S. aureus* dPNAG.

FIGs. 11A and 11B are graphs showing the level of killing of *E. coli* isolates expressing relatively high (strain U) and intermediate (strain P) levels of PNAG, respectively, using polyclonal antiserum raised against dPNAG and PNAG.

FIG. 12 is a bar graph showing reduction in CFU from different PNAG-expressing bacterial strains using F598, F628 and F630.

FIG. 13 is a graph showing proportion of *S. aureus* bacteria killed by F598 and F628 as a function of *icaB* gene presence or absence.

FIG. 14 is a graph showing proportion of *S. aureus* bacteria killed by F598 and F628 as a function of *icaB* gene over-expression.

[0038] It is to be understood that the Figures are not required for enablement of the invention.

Brief Description of the Sequence Listing

[0039]

EP 2 455 400 B1

SEQ ID NO: 1 is the amino acid sequence of antibody F598 heavy chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 2 is the amino acid sequence of antibody F598 light chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 3 is the amino acid sequence of antibody F628 heavy chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 4 is the amino acid sequence of antibody F628 light chain variable region.
5 SEQ ID NO: 5 is the amino acid sequence of antibody F630 heavy chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 6 is the amino acid sequence of antibody F630 light chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 7 is the amino acid sequence of CDR1 of antibody F598 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 8 is the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of antibody F598 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 9 is the amino acid sequence of CDR3 of antibody F598 heavy chain.
10 SEQ ID NO: 10 is the amino acid sequence of CDR1 of antibody F598 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 11 is the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of antibody F598 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 12 is the amino acid sequence of CDR3 of antibody F598 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 13 is the amino acid sequence of CDR1 of antibody F628 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 14 is the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of antibody F628 heavy chain.
15 SEQ ID NO: 15 is the amino acid sequence of CDR3 of antibody F628 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 16 is the amino acid sequence of CDR1 of antibody F628 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 17 is the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of antibody F628 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 18 is the amino acid sequence of CDR3 of antibody F628 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 19 is the amino acid sequence of CDR1 of antibody F630 heavy chain.
20 SEQ ID NO: 20 is the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of antibody F630 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 21 is the amino acid sequence of CDR3 of antibody F630 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 22 is the amino acid sequence of CDR1 of antibody F630 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 23 is the amino acid sequence of CDR2 of antibody F630 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 24 is the amino acid sequence of CDR3 of antibody F630 light chain.
25 SEQ ID NO: 25 is the nucleotide sequence of antibody F598 heavy chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 26 is the nucleotide sequence of antibody F598 light chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 27 is the nucleotide sequence of antibody F628 heavy chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 28 is the nucleotide sequence of antibody F628 light chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 29 is the nucleotide sequence of antibody F630 heavy chain variable region.
30 SEQ ID NO: 30 is the nucleotide sequence of antibody F630 light chain variable region.
SEQ ID NO: 31 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of antibody F598 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 32 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of antibody F598 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 33 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of antibody F598 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 34 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of antibody F598 light chain.
35 SEQ ID NO: 35 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of antibody F598 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 36 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of antibody F598 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 37 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of antibody F628 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 38 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of antibody F628 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 39 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of antibody F628 heavy chain.
40 SEQ ID NO: 40 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of antibody F628 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 41 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of antibody F628 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 42 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of antibody F628 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 43 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of antibody F630 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 44 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of antibody F630 heavy chain.
45 SEQ ID NO: 45 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of antibody F630 heavy chain.
SEQ ID NO: 46 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR1 of antibody F630 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 47 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR2 of antibody F630 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 48 is the nucleotide sequence of CDR3 of antibody F630 light chain.
SEQ ID NO: 49 is the nucleotide sequence of primer lambda constant.
50 SEQ ID NO: 50 is the nucleotide sequence of primer Hu lambda sig 5.
SEQ ID NO: 51 is the nucleotide sequence of primer Heavy chain constant.
SEQ ID NO: 52 is the nucleotide sequence of primer VH7LDRHU.
SEQ ID NO: 53 is the nucleotide sequence of primer Hu lambda sig 1.
SEQ ID NO: 54 is the nucleotide sequence of primer VH1LDRHU.
55 SEQ ID NO: 55 is the amino acid sequence of F598 heavy chain variable region including some constant region sequence.
SEQ ID NO: 56 is the nucleotide sequence of F598 heavy chain variable region including some constant region sequence.

SEQ ID NO: 57 is the amino acid sequence of F598 light chain variable region including some constant region sequence.

SEQ ID NO: 58 is the amino acid sequence of F628 heavy chain variable region including some constant region sequence.

SEQ ID NO: 59 is the nucleotide sequence of F628 heavy chain variable region including some constant region sequence.

SEQ ID NO: 60 is the amino acid sequence of F630 light chain variable region including some constant region sequence.

SEQ ID NO: 61 is the nucleotide sequence of F630 light chain variable region including some constant region sequence.

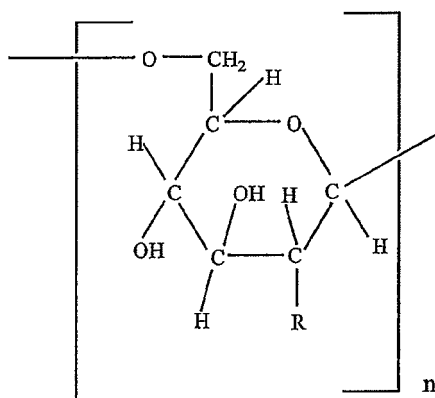
Detailed Description of the Invention

[0040] The disclosure provides compositions and methods useful, inter alia, for immunization of humans and animals against infection by bacterial strains that express poly-N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG) as well as detection of such pathogens. Such bacterial strains include but are not limited to coagulase-negative and coagulase-positive *Staphylococci* such as *S. aureus* and *S. epidermis*. The disclosure further provides peptides that bind to various forms of PNAG expressed by some bacterial strains.

[0041] The invention is based in part on the discovery, isolation and characterization of a number of human monoclonal antibodies that bind to various forms of PNAG (including highly acetylated forms, poorly acetylated forms and deacetylated forms, as described below). These antibodies are produced by hybridomas deposited with the ATCC under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933 on April 21, 2004 in accordance with the Budapest Patent Treaty. The hybridomas and the antibodies they produce are designated F598, F628 and F630. These hybridomas are referred to herein repeatedly. It is to be understood that reference to hybridomas (or antibodies produced by hybridomas) having ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933 means the afore-mentioned hybridomas. The deposited hybridomas were produced from B cells harvested from a human subject recovering from a *Staphylococcal* infection. The B cells were transformed with the Epstein-Barr virus and then fused with the human-mouse myeloma cell line HMMA 2.5 to generate the deposited hybridomas.

[0042] PNAG exists in nature in various forms that differ according to the degree of acetate substitutions. Acetate substitutions can range from 0-100%. As used herein, PNAG refers to "native PNAG" corresponding to the naturally occurring mixture of PNAG with the aforementioned range of acetate substitutions. Poorly acetylated PNAG is a sub-population of PNAG polysaccharides in which less than 50% of amino groups of glucosamine are substituted with acetate. As used herein, the term dPNAG embraces both poorly acetylated PNAG as well as completely deacetylated PNAG (i.e., dPNAG refers to a subset of PNAG polysaccharides that comprise 0 - less than 50% acetate substituents).

[0043] PNAG has the following structure:



where, n is an integer ranging from 2 to greater than or equal to 300, R is selected from the group consisting of -NH-CO-CH₃ and -NH₂. PNAG has a beta (β) 1-6 linkage (i.e., it is comprised of glucosamine monomer units linked together by beta (β) 1-6 linkages).

[0044] PNAG may be a homo-polymer. A homo-polymer is one in which the R groups of the glucosamine residues are identical. The homo-polymer may comprise solely unsubstituted R groups (i.e., R=NH₂). PNAG can also be a hetero-polymer with a mixture of -NH₂ and -NH-CO-CH₃ groups at the R position. dPNAG has the identical structure as PNAG with the exception that less than 50% of the R groups are -NH-CO-CH₃.

[0045] PNAG and dPNAG can be naturally occurring and prepared from any bacterial strain carrying the *ica* locus (or

a homologous locus such as the *pga* locus), producing the biosynthetic enzymes encoded by this locus, and using these enzymes to synthesize PNAG or dPNAG. Bacteria that express PNAG include *Staphylococci* such as *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*, *E. coli* such as *E. coli* strains O157:H7 and CFT073, *Yersinia pestis*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (all of which are sequenced species with complete *pgaABCD* loci), and *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (AA), *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (Ap), *Ralstonia solanacearum* (e.g., megaplasmid form), *Bordetella pertussis*, *Bordetella parapertussis* and *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (all of which contain *pgcABC* genes but apparently lack a *pgaD* homologue). *pgaD* apparently is not required for PNAG expression as *pgaABC* encoding species such as AA and Ap (listed above) make PNAG.

[0046] Bacteria that express PNAG are bacteria that carry the *ica* locus or a homologous locus such as the *pga* locus. For example, PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci* are *Staphylococci* that carry the *ica* locus. PNAG-expressing bacterial strains include dPNAG-expressing bacterial strains. For example, PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci* include dPNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*. These strains include but are not limited to *S. epidermidis* and *S. aureus*, as well as other strains (e.g., *S. carnosus*) that have been transformed with the genes in the *ica* locus or homologous locus such as the *pga* locus. In particular, PNAG can be prepared from specific strains including *S. epidermidis* RP62A (ATCC number 35984), *S. epidermidis* RP12 (ATCC number 35983), *S. epidermidis* M187, *S. carnosus* TM300 (pCN27), *S. aureus* RN4220 (pCN27), *S. aureus* MN8 mucoid, *E. coli* O157:H7 and *E. coli* CFT073. dPNAG may also be synthesized de novo or via modification of native PNAG. PNAG and dPNAG can be prepared according to the methods described in Maira-Litran et al. Infect Immun. 2002 Aug;70(8):4433, and in U.S. Patent Application 10/713,790 filed on November 12, 2003.

[0047] PNAG is also expressed by other bacteria including but not limited to *E. coli*, *Yersinia pestis* (*Y. pestis*), *Y. enterocolitica*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* (*X. axonopodis*), *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*P. fluorescens*), *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*), *A. pleuropneumoniae*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* (*R. solanacearum*), *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*), *B. parapertussis* and *B. bronchiseptica*. As described in the Examples, 17 out of 18 urinary tract infection *E. coli* isolates carried the *pga* locus. Of these, about one third expressed relatively high levels of PNAG, about one third expressed relatively intermediate levels of PNAG, and the remaining third expressed relatively low levels of PNAG. The above analyses were carried out by immunoblot using antisera raised to *S. aureus* PNAG. This is evidence that PNAG from one species can be used to raise antibodies (and accordingly binding peptides) to other species that express PNAG.

[0048] Thus, in one aspect, the disclosure provides binding peptides and antibodies. The antibodies of the invention bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG and enhance opsonophagocytosis of species that elaborate PNAG (i.e., opsonophagocytic human monoclonal antibodies specific for *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG). The antibodies are referred to herein as anti-*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG antibodies. It is to be understood, however, that such antibodies are able to bind PNAG/dPNAG regardless of its source. Accordingly, antibodies of the invention that are defined as binding to, for example, *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG and capable of detecting and/or enhancing opsonophagocytosis of, for example, *Staphylococcal* species are also capable of detecting and/or enhancing opsonophagocytosis of non-*Staphylococcal* PNAG-expressing bacteria.

[0049] An anti-*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG antibody is an antibody that a) binds to both PNAG and dPNAG, b) binds to PNAG but not dPNAG, or c) binds to dPNAG but not PNAG. Preferred antibodies bind to dPNAG.

[0050] Antibodies F598, F628 and F630 are all able to bind to native PNAG and some are also able to bind to dPNAG. Although not intending to be bound by any mechanism or theory, it is believed that antibodies that recognize dPNAG are more likely to bind specifically to parts of the PNAG molecule that do not contain acetate groups, rather than to parts of the molecule that include substituents such as the acetate substitutions. For example, antibodies that bind to dPNAG may recognize and bind to the backbone of PNAG rather than its acetate substituents. These antibodies are capable of mediating opsonophagocytic killing of PNAG-expressing bacteria such as but not limited to *Staphylococcal* or *E. coli* isolates from infected human subjects. When used *in vivo* in murine models of *Staphylococcal* infection, the antibodies provide protection to *Staphylococcal* challenge. The conditions under which each monoclonal antibody provides protection may vary. These and other findings are described in greater detail in the Examples.

[0051] Although not intending to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that progression of infection by PNAG-expressing bacteria (such as *Staphylococcal* infection) is due to a failure to produce an adequate immune response that eliminates the pathogen. Specifically, one of the defects is a failure to produce opsonophagocytic antibodies specific for PNAG (such as that produced by *Staphylococci*.)

[0052] Opsonophagocytic antibodies are antibodies that deposit themselves onto an antigen or onto a bacterium with and without the ability to recruit additional deposition of components of the complement system and facilitate the phagocytosis of the antigen or bacterium by phagocytic cells such as antigen presenting cells (e.g., macrophages or dendritic cells), or polymorphonuclear neutrophils. Phagocytosis can proceed in an Fc-mediated manner that involves only the antibody bound to the antigen or bacterium. Phagocytosis can also proceed by binding of complement receptors on phagocytes to complement opsonins on bacterial surfaces to which antibodies have deposited. Phagocytosis can also proceed by a combination of these two mechanisms. The ability to provide opsonophagocytic antibodies to the site of infection should therefore contribute to the eradication of the infection more effectively than previously possible.

[0053] Both PNAG and dPNAG are highly immunogenic *in vivo* and are capable of eliciting antibodies that mediate opsonic killing and protection from infection, it is hypothesized that dPNAG preferentially elicits antibodies that mediate opsonic killing and protection from infection. The dPNAG polysaccharide is therefore useful, inter alia, in the generation of immune responses, including antibody dependent immune responses, to PNAG-expressing bacterial strains such as but not limited to *Staphylococci*. The antibodies elicited following dPNAG administration recognize dPNAG and in important embodiments also recognize highly acetylated forms of PNAG.

[0054] Thus, the invention relates to the identification and use of peptides that bind to PNAG and/or dPNAG. Peptides that bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG are referred to herein as PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptides. Again, it is to be understood that such binding peptides are able to bind PNAG/dPNAG regardless of source. PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptides include a) peptides that bind to both PNAG and dPNAG, b) peptides that bind to PNAG and not to dPNAG (referred to herein as PNAG-binding peptides), and c) peptides that bind to dPNAG and not to PNAG (referred to herein as dPNAG-binding peptides). In preferred embodiments, the peptides at least bind to dPNAG (thereby embracing aforementioned categories (a) and (c)).

[0055] The peptides minimally comprise regions that bind to PNAG/dPNAG (i.e., *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding regions). As used herein, a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding region is a region that a) binds to both PNAG and dPNAG, b) binds to PNAG but not dPNAG (referred to herein as a PNAG-binding region), or c) binds to dPNAG but not PNAG (referred to herein as a dPNAG-binding region), regardless of the source of PNAG/dPNAG. Preferably, the PNAG/dPNAG binding region is a region that at least binds dPNAG (and therefore embraces categories (a) and (c)). *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding regions derive from the PNAG/dPNAG-binding regions of the antibodies of the invention, or alternatively, they are functionally equivalent variants of such regions.

[0056] Accordingly, two particularly important classes of antibody-derived PNAG/dPNAG-binding regions are variable regions and CDRs of the antibodies described herein or produced by hybridomas deposited with the ATCC under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933 on April 21, 2004. CDR and variable region nucleic acids can be cloned from antibody-producing cells such as those on deposit as described in the Examples.

[0057] An antibody, as is well known in the art, is an assembly of polypeptide chains linked by disulfide bridges. Two principle amino acid chains, referred to as the light chain and heavy chain, make up all major structural isotypes of antibody. Both heavy chains and light chains are further divided into subregions referred to as variable regions and constant regions. In some instances, the peptides encompass the antibody heavy and light chain variable regions of the foregoing antibodies. The heavy chain variable region is a peptide which generally ranges from 100 to 150 amino acids in length. The light chain variable region is a peptide which generally ranges from 80 to 130 amino acids in length.

[0058] As is also well-known in the art, CDRs of an antibody are the portions of the antibody variable region which are largely responsible for the binding specificity of an antibody for a given antigen or antigenic epitope. The CDRs directly interact with the epitope of the antigen (see, in general, Clark, 1986; Roitt, 1991). In both the heavy chain and the light chain variable regions of IgG immunoglobulins, there are four framework regions (FR1 through FR4) separated respectively by three complementarity determining regions (CDR1, CDR 2 and CDR3). The framework regions (FRs) maintain the tertiary structure of the paratope, which is the portion of the antibody which is involved in the interaction with the antigen or antigenic epitope. CDRs, and in particular CDR3, and more particularly heavy chain CDR3, contribute substantially to antibody specificity. Because CDRs, and in particular CDR3, confer a large proportion of antigenic specificity on the antibody, these regions may be incorporated into other antibodies or peptides to confer the identical antigenic specificity onto that antibody or peptide.

[0059] Preferably, the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptides minimally encompass at least one CDR from those described herein or those that can be derived from the deposited hybridomas (i.e., a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR). As used herein, a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR is a CDR described herein or is a CDR derived from hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDRs include a) CDRs that bind to both PNAG and dPNAG, b) CDRs that bind to PNAG and not to dPNAG (referred to herein as PNAG-binding CDRs), and c) CDRs that bind to dPNAG and not to PNAG (referred to herein as dPNAG-binding CDRs), regardless of the source of the PNAG/dPNAG. These peptides preferably contain at least one *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR.

[0060] The *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding region may be a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR1, a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR2, or a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3, all of which are derived from the antibodies and antibody variable chains disclosed herein.

[0061] As used herein, a "*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR1" is a CDR1 that binds, preferably specifically, to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG, and is derived from either the heavy or light chain variable regions of the antibodies described herein or produced by hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. It may have an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 19 and SEQ ID NO: 22. Similar respective definitions apply to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR2 and CDR3.

[0062] A "*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR2" is a CDR2 that binds, preferably specifically, to *Staphylococcal*

PNAG/dPNAG, and is derived from either the heavy or light chain variable regions of the antibodies described herein or produced by the hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. It may have an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 20 and SEQ ID NO: 23.

[0063] A "*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3" is a CDR3 that binds, preferably specifically, to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG, and is derived from either the heavy or light chain variable regions of the antibodies described herein or produced by the hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. It may have an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 21 and SEQ ID NO: 24.

[0064] In addition to the sequences listed above, the disclosure intends to embrace functionally equivalent variants of these sequences including conservative substitution variants in either the amino acid or nucleotide sequence, as described in greater detail below.

[0065] The peptides of the disclosure including but not limited to the opsonophagocytic antibodies discussed herein, are useful inter alia in diagnostic methods aimed at detecting, in a sample in or from a subject, the PNAG/dPNAG antigen or PNAG-expressing bacteria (such as but not limited to *Staphylococcal* bacteria that express PNAG). At a minimum, peptides useful in these methods need only recognize and bind to PNAG/dPNAG (such as *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG) regardless of whether they also enhance opsonization and phagocytosis. In important embodiments, the antibodies and fragments thereof bind to PNAG/dPNAG selectively. Accordingly, they need only possess one or more of the CDRs derived from the antibody clones described herein or produced by the hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. In preferred embodiments, the peptides comprise a PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3, and even more preferably, the peptides comprise a heavy chain PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3. It is to be understood that not all of the CDRs are required in order to effect binding to PNAG/dPNAG. However, in some embodiments the peptides comprise all of the CDRs of a given antibody clone disclosed herein or produced by hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933.

[0066] In addition, it should be understood that the disclosure also embraces the exchange of CDRs between the variable regions provided herein. Preferably, a heavy chain CDR is exchanged with another heavy chain variable region CDR, and likewise, a light chain CDR is exchanged with another light chain variable region CDR.

[0067] The amino acid sequences of the CDRs of the variable chains disclosed in the present disclosure are as follows:

Clone	Chain	CDR	SEQ ID NO:	Sequence
F598	Hv	CDR1	7	GYYSWS
F598	Hv	CDR2	8	YIHYSRSTNSNPALKS
F598	Hv	CDR3	9	DTYYYDSGDYEDAFDI
F598	Lt	CDR1	10	TLSSGHSNYAIA
F598	Lt	CDR2	11	VNRDGSHIRGD
F598	Lt	CDR3	12	QTWGAGIRV
F628	Hv	CDR1	13	NYYWS
F628	Hv	CDR2	14	YIHYSGSTNSNP SLKS
F628	Hv	CDR3	15	DTYYESSGHWFDGLDV
F628	Lt	CDR1	16	TLDSEHSRYTIA
F628	Lt	CDR2	17	VKSDGSHSKGD
F628	Lt	CDR3	18	QTWGPGIRV
F630	Hv	CDR1	19	NFGIS
F630	Hv	CDR2	20	WVSTYNGRTNYAQKFRG
F630	Hv	CDR3	21	DYYETSGYAYDDFAI
F630	Lt	CDR1	22	TLSSGHSTYAIA
F630	Lt	CDR2	23	VNSDGSHTKGD
F630	Lt	CDR3	24	QTWGPGIRV

[0068] The nucleotide sequences of the CDRs of the variable chains disclosed in the present disclosure are as follows:

Clone	Chain	CDR	SEQ ID NO:	Sequence
F598	Hv	CDR1	31	GGT TAC TAC TGG AGT
F598	Hv	CDR2	32	TAT ATT CAT TAT AGT AGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAC CCC GCC CTC AAG AGT

(continued)

Clone	Chain	CDR	SEQ ID NO:	Sequence
F598	Hv	CDR3	33	GAT ACC TAT TAC TAT GAT AGT GGT GAT TAT GAG GAT GCT TTT GAT ATT
F598	Lt	CDR1	34	ACT CTG AGC AGT GGC CAC AGC AAC TAC GCC ATC GCT
F598	Lt	CDR2	35	GTT AAC AGA GAT GGC AGC CAC ATC AGG GGG GAC
F598	Lt	CDR3	36	CAG ACC TGG GGC GCT GGC ATT CGA GTG
F628	Hv	CDR1	37	AAT TAC TAC TGG AGT
F628	Hv	CDR2	38	TAT ATC CAT TAT AGT GGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAT CCA TCC CTC AAG AGT
F628	Hv	CDR3	39	GAT ACT TAC TAT GAA AGT AGT GGT CAT TGG TTC GAC GGT TTG GAC GTC
F628	Lt	CDR1	40	ACT CTG GAC AGT GAA CAC AGC AGA TAC ACC ATC GCA
F628	Lt	CDR2	41	GTT AAG AGT GAT GGC AGT CAC AGC AAG GGG GAC
F628	Lt	CDR3	42	CAG ACT TGG GGC CCT GGC ATT CGA GTG
F630	Hv	CDR1	43	AAC TTT GGT ATC AGT
F630	Hv	CDR2	44	TGG GTC AGC ACT TAC AAT GGT CGC ACA AAT TAT GCA CAG AAG TTC CGG GGC
F630	Hv	CDR3	45	GAT TAC TAT GAG ACT AGT GGT TAC GCC TAT GAT GAT TTT GCG ATC
F630	Lt	CDR1	46	ACT CTG AGC AGT GGG CAC AGC ACC TAC GCC ATC GCG
F630	Lt	CDR2	47	GTC AAC AGT GAT GGC AGC CAC ACC AAG GGG GAC
F630	Lt	CDR3	48	CAG ACG TGG GGC CCT GGC ATT CGA GTG

[0069] The peptides may also comprise a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding variable region. A *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding variable region is a variable region (preferably an antibody variable region as described herein or as derived from hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933) that a) binds to both PNAG and dPNAG, b) binds to PNAG but not dPNAG (referred to herein as a PNAG-binding variable region), or c) binds to dPNAG but not PNAG (referred to herein as a dPNAG-binding variable region), regardless of the PNAG/dPNAG source.

[0070] The present disclosure provides at least six different variable regions, at least three of which are heavy chain variable regions and at least three of which are light chain variable regions. SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 25 correspond to the amino acid and nucleotide sequence of the heavy chain variable region derived from antibody clone F598. SEQ ID NO: 2 and SEQ ID NO: 26 correspond to the amino acid and nucleotide sequence of the light chain variable region derived from antibody clone F598. SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 27 correspond to the amino acid and nucleotide sequence of the heavy chain variable region derived from antibody clone F628. SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 28 correspond to the amino acid and nucleotide sequence of the light chain variable region derived from antibody clone F628. SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 29 correspond to the amino acid and nucleotide sequence of the heavy chain variable region derived from antibody clone F630. SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 30 correspond to the amino acid and nucleotide sequence of the light chain variable region derived from antibody clone F630.

[0071] It is to be understood that the nucleic acids or peptides of the disclosure may be derived from the sequences provided herein or from the deposited hybridomas. These sequences can be cloned (e.g., by PCR) and inserted into a vector and/or cells in order to produce peptides corresponding to full length variable regions or fragments of full length variable regions, and antibodies comprising the variable regions. It is therefore possible to generate antibodies or fragments thereof that comprise a combination of light and heavy chain variable regions. For example, an antibody of the invention may comprise the heavy chain variable region from MA b F598 (or from the antibody produced by the deposited F598 hybridoma) and the light chain variable region of F630 (or from the antibody produced by the deposited F630

hybridoma). It is to be understood that any combination of heavy and light chain variable regions (as disclosed herein or as comprised in antibodies produced by hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933) can be used in the synthesis of an antibody or antibody fragment according to the invention.

[0072] Accordingly, the disclosure embraces antibodies or antibody fragments that are comprised of the following variable region combinations: SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:4; and SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.

[0073] Similarly, the invention or disclosure embraces antibodies or antibody fragments that are comprised of the following variable region combinations:

1. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F598 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F598 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931;
2. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F598 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F628 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932;
3. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F598 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F630 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933;
4. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F628 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F598 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931;
5. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F628 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F628 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932;
6. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F628 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F630 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933;
7. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F630 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F598 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931;
8. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F630 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F628 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5932; and
9. heavy chain variable region from hybridoma F630 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933 and light chain variable region from hybridoma F630 having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5933.

[0074] The invention intends to capture antibody and antibody fragments of various isotypes. The deposited hybridomas produce IgG2 isotype antibodies. However, the recombinant immunoglobulin (Ig) genes, particularly the variable region genes, can be isolated from the deposited hybridomas, as described in the Examples, and cloned into an Ig recombination vector that codes for human Ig constant region genes of both heavy and light chains. Using this technique, IgG1 isotype antibodies that bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG and thereby enhance opsonophagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacteria (such as *Staphylococci*) have been identified, synthesized and isolated.

[0075] The antibodies may be of an IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgD, IgE, IgM, IgA1, IgA2, or sIgA isotype. The invention intends to capture isotypes found in non-human species as well such as but not limited to IgY in birds and sharks. Vectors encoding the constant regions of various isotypes are known and previously described. (See, for example, Preston et al. Production and characterization of a set of mouse-human chimeric immunoglobulin G (IgG) subclass and IgA monoclonal antibodies with identical variable regions specific for *P. aeruginosa* serogroup O6 lipopolysaccharide. Infect Immun. 1998 Sep;66(9):4137-42; Coloma et al. Novel vectors for the expression of antibody molecules using variable regions generated by polymerase chain reaction. J Immunol Methods. 1992 Jul 31;152(1):89-104; Guttieri et al. Cassette vectors for conversion of Fab fragments into full-length human IgG1 monoclonal antibodies by expression in stably transformed insect cells. Hybrid Hybridomics. 2003 Jun;22(3): 13 5-45; McLean et al. Human and murine immunoglobulin expression vector cassettes. Mol Immunol. 2000 Oct;37(14):837-45; Walls et al. Vectors for the expression of PCR-amplified immunoglobulin variable domains with human constant regions. Nucleic Acids Res. 1993 Jun 25;21(12):2921-9; Norderhaug et al. Versatile vectors for transient and stable expression of recombinant antibody molecules in mammalian cells. J Immunol Methods. 1997 May 12;204(1):77-87.)

[0076] As used herein, the term "peptide" includes monoclonal antibodies, functionally active and/or equivalent antibody fragments, and functionally active and/or equivalent peptides and polypeptides.

[0077] The peptides are isolated peptides. As used herein, the term "isolated peptides" means that the peptides are substantially pure and are essentially free of other substances with which they may be found in nature or *in vivo* systems to an extent practical and appropriate for their intended use. In particular, the peptides are sufficiently pure and are sufficiently free from other biological constituents of their hosts cells so as to be useful in, for example, producing pharmaceutical preparations or sequencing. Because an isolated peptide may be admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in a pharmaceutical preparation, the peptide may comprise only a small percentage by weight of the preparation. The peptide is nonetheless substantially pure in that it has been substantially separated from the substances with which it may be associated in living systems.

[0078] The peptides bind to PNAG and/or dPNAG, preferably in a selective manner. As used herein, the terms "selective binding" and "specific binding" are used interchangeably to refer to the ability of the peptide to bind with greater affinity to PNAG and/or dPNAG and fragments thereof than to non-PNAG derived compounds. That is, peptides that bind selectively to PNAG and/or dPNAG will not bind to non-PNAG derived compounds to the same extent and with the same affinity as they bind to PNAG and/or dPNAG and fragments thereof, with the exception of cross reactive antigens or molecules made to be mimics of PNAG/dPNAG such as peptide mimetics of carbohydrates or variable regions of anti-idiotypic antibodies that bind to the PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptides in the same manner as PNAG/dPNAG. Antibodies that bind selectively to PNAG bind to PNAG with greater affinity than to dPNAG. Antibodies that bind to dPNAG may also bind to dPNAG with lesser, comparable or greater affinity than to PNAG. In preferred embodiments, the peptides of the invention bind solely to PNAG and/or dPNAG and fragments thereof, and even more preferably, they at least bind to dPNAG. As used herein, a binding peptide that binds selectively or specifically to *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG may also bind PNAG/dPNAG from other sources and will bind with lesser affinity (if at all) to non-PNAG/dPNAG derived compounds. Lesser affinity may include at least 10% less, 20% less, 30% less, 40% less, 50% less, 60% less, 70% less, 80% less, 90% less, or 95% less. Thus, "selective" in this sense refers to the binding to PNAG/dPNAG rather than to the *Staphylococcus-derived* form of PNAG/dPNAG.

[0079] As stated earlier, the disclosure provides peptides e.g., antibodies or antibody fragments, that bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG. Such antibodies preferably enhance opsonization and phagocytosis (i.e., opsonophagocytosis) of PNAG-expressing bacteria (such as PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*), and as a result are useful in the prevention and therapy of some forms of bacterial infections in a subject. Opsonization refers to a process by which phagocytosis is facilitated by the deposition of opsonins (e.g., antibody and/or opsonic complement factors such as C4b or C3b or any other factor capable of promoting opsonophagocytosis) on the antigen. Phagocytosis and opsonophagocytosis refer to the process by which phagocytic cells (e.g., macrophages, dendritic cells, and polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNL)) engulf material and enclose it within a vacuole (e.g., a phagosome) in their cytoplasm. Thus, antibodies or antibody fragments that opsonize bacteria and enhance phagocytosis are antibodies or antibody fragments that recognize and deposit onto an antigen, and in doing so, facilitate the uptake and engulfment of the antigen (and the antigen-bearing substance, e.g., *Staphylococcal* bacteria) by phagocytic cells. Generally, in order to enhance phagocytosis and opsonization, the antibody comprises an Fc domain or region. The Fc domain is recognized by Fc receptor bearing cells (e.g., antigen presenting cells such as macrophages, or PMNL). As used herein, "to enhance opsonophagocytosis" means to increase the likelihood that an antigen or an antigen bearing substrate will be recognized and engulfed by a phagocytic cell, via antibody deposition. This enhancement can be measured by reduction in bacterial load *in vivo* or by bacterial cell killing *in vitro* using the *in vitro* methods described below.

[0080] Opsonization assays are standard in the art. Generally such assays measure the amount of bacterial killing in the presence of an antibody, an antigen (expressed on the target bacterial cell), complement, and phagocytic cells. Serum from either animals or humans is commonly used as a source of complement, and polymorphonuclear cells from animals or humans are commonly used as a source of phagocytic cells. The target cell for opsonophagocytic killing can be prokaryotic (as in the present invention) or eukaryotic, depending upon which cell type expresses the antigen. Cell killing can be measured by viable cell counts prior to and following incubation of the reaction components. Alternatively, cell killing can be quantitated by measuring cell contents in the supernatant of the reaction mixture (e.g., release of radioactive chromium or release of intracellular enzymes such as lactate dehydrogenase). Other assays will be apparent to those of skill in the art, having read the present specification, which are useful for determining whether an antibody or antibody fragment that binds to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG also stimulates opsonization and phagocytosis.

[0081] The present invention or disclosure provides, inter alia, PNAG/dPNAG-specific human monoclonal antibodies that enhance opsonic killing of PNAG-expressing bacteria such as but not limited to *Staphylococci*. These antibodies are named F598, F628 and F630. When used *in vivo* in humans, human monoclonal antibodies are far less likely to be immunogenic (as compared to antibodies from another species). As a result, these antibodies represent novel agents useful in the design of vaccines as well as passive immunotherapy targeting bacterial strains that express PNAG such as but not limited to *Staphylococci*.

[0082] The synthesis of these monoclonal antibodies is described in the Examples. Briefly, the antibodies were derived as follows: B cells were harvested from individuals recovering from a *Staphylococcal* infection. Harvested B cells were transformed using Epstein-Barr virus and, after a period of growth and screening for secretion of antibody to PNAG/dPNAG, fused with the immortalized human-mouse myeloma cell line partner designated HMMA 2.5. After an initial period of growth of the fused cells, single antibody producing clones were isolated, grown and analyzed separately using a binding assay (e.g., ELISA). Three hybridomas were selected based on the ability of their secreted antibody to bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG. All three antibodies were of the IgG2 isotype and were used as a source of antibody of the IgG2 isotype. Variable regions were cloned from the hybridomas by PCR as described above.

[0083] Variable region nucleic acids for the heavy and light chains of the antibodies were cloned into an human Ig expression vector (i.e., TCAE6) that contained the IgG1 (gamma 1) constant region coding sequences for the heavy chain and the lambda constant region for the light chains. (See, for example, Preston et al. Production and characterization

of a set of mouse-human chimeric immunoglobulin G (IgG) subclass and IgA monoclonal antibodies with identical variable regions specific for *P. aeruginosa* serogroup O6 lipopolysaccharide. Infect Immun. 1998 Sep;66(9):4137-42.) The variable regions can be placed in any vector that encodes constant region coding sequences. For example, human Ig heavy-chain constant-region expression vectors containing genomic clones of the human IgG2, IgG3, IgG4 and IgA heavy-chain constant-region genes and lacking variable-region genes have been described in Coloma, et al. 1992 J. Immunol. Methods 152:89-104.)

[0084] These expression vectors were then transfected into cells (e.g., CHO DG44 cells), the cells were grown *in vitro*, and IgG1 was subsequently harvested from the supernatant. Resultant antibodies possessed human variable regions and human IgG1 and lambda constant regions. Their ability to bind to PNAG and/or dPNAG and to enhance opsonization and phagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacteria such as *Staphylococci* was evaluated using binding and opsonophagocytic killing assays such as those described herein.

[0085] "Isolated antibodies" as used herein refer to antibodies that are substantially physically separated from other cellular material (e.g., separated from cells which produce the antibodies) or from other material that hinders their use either in the diagnostic or therapeutic methods of the invention. Preferably, the isolated antibodies are present in a homogenous population of antibodies (e.g., a population of monoclonal antibodies). Compositions of isolated antibodies can however be combined with other components such as but not limited to pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, adjuvants, and the like.

[0086] "Isolated antibody producing cells" including isolated hybridomas and isolated recombinant cells (such as those described herein), as used herein, refer to antibody-producing cells that are substantially physically separated from other cells, other bodily material (e.g., ascites tissue and fluid), and other material that hinders their use in the production of, for example, an isolated and preferably homogenous antibody population. The hybridomas deposited with the ATCC under the Budapest Treaty as ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933 on April 21, 2004 are considered to be examples of isolated antibody producing cells and more specifically isolated hybridomas.

[0087] Thus in one embodiment, the peptide is an isolated intact soluble monoclonal antibody specific for *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG. As used herein, the term "monoclonal antibody" refers to a homogenous population of immunoglobulins that specifically bind to an identical epitope (i.e., antigenic determinant). The peptide in one embodiment is, for example, a monoclonal antibody having a heavy chain variable region having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5. The monoclonal antibody can have a light chain variable region having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6. Monoclonal antibodies having any combination of light chain and heavy chain variable regions are embraced by the invention.

[0088] The disclosure intends to encompass antibodies other than, for example, clones F598, F628 and F630, provided that such antibodies have the binding characteristics of the monoclonal antibodies described herein. Optionally, these additional antibodies also enhance opsonophagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacterial strains such as but not limited to PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*. One of ordinary skill in the art can easily identify antibodies having the functional characteristics (e.g., binding, opsonizing and phagocytosing attributes) of these monoclonal antibody using the screening and binding assays set forth in detail herein.

[0089] In other embodiments, the peptide is an antibody fragment. As is well-known in the art, only a small portion of an antibody molecule, the paratope, is involved in the binding of the antibody to its epitope (see, in general, Clark, W.R. (1986) The Experimental Foundations of Modern Immunology Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York; Roitt, I. (1991) Essential Immunology, 7th Ed., Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford; and Pier GB, Lyczak JB, Wetzler LM, (eds). Immunology, Infection and Immunity (2004) 1st Ed. American Society for Microbiology Press, Washington D.C.). The pFc' and Fc regions of the antibody, for example, are effectors of the complement cascade and can mediate binding to Fc receptors on phagocytic cells, but are not involved in antigen binding. An antibody from which the pFc' region has been enzymatically cleaved, or which has been produced without the pFc' region, designated an F(ab')₂ fragment, retains both of the antigen binding sites of an intact antibody. An isolated F(ab')₂ fragment is referred to as a bivalent monoclonal fragment because of its two antigen binding sites. Similarly, an antibody from which the Fc region has been enzymatically cleaved, or which has been produced without the Fc region, designated an Fab fragment, retains one of the antigen binding sites of an intact antibody molecule. Proceeding further, Fab fragments consist of a covalently bound antibody light chain and a portion of the antibody heavy chain denoted Fd (heavy chain variable region). The Fd fragments are the major determinant of antibody specificity (a single Fd fragment may be associated with up to ten different light chains without altering antibody specificity) and Fd fragments retain epitope-binding ability in isolation.

[0090] The terms Fab, Fc, pFc', F(ab')₂ and Fv are employed with either standard immunological meanings [Klein, Immunology (John Wiley, New York, NY, 1982); Clark, W.R. (1986) The Experimental Foundations of Modern Immunology (Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York); Roitt, I. (1991) Essential Immunology, 7th Ed., (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford); and Pier GB, Lyczak JB, Wetzler LM, (eds). Immunology, Infection and Immunity (2004) 1st Ed. American Society for Microbiology Press, Washington D.C.].

[0091] In other embodiments, the Fc portions of the antibodies of the invention may be replaced so as to produce IgM as well as human IgG antibodies bearing some or all of the CDRs of the monoclonal antibodies described herein or

produced by the hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. Of particular importance is the inclusion of a *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3 region and, to a lesser extent, the other CDRs and portions of the framework regions of the monoclonal antibodies described herein or produced by the hybridomas deposited under ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933. Such human antibodies will have particular clinical utility in that they will recognize and bind, preferably selectively, to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG, but will not evoke an immune response in humans against the antibody itself.

[0092] The disclosure also intends to include functionally equivalent variants of the *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding peptides. A "functionally equivalent variant" is a compound having the same function (i.e., the ability to bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG and in some embodiments to facilitate opsonization of PNAG-expressing bacterial strains) as the peptides of the invention. A functionally equivalent variant may be peptide in nature but it is not so limited. For example, it may be a carbohydrate, a peptidomimetic, etc. In important embodiments, the functionally equivalent variant is a peptide having the amino acid sequence of a variable region or a CDR with conservative substitutions therein, that is still capable of binding to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG. An example of a functionally equivalent variant of *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3 from the heavy chain variable region of clone F598 (i.e., SEQ ID NO:1) is a peptide having conservative substitutions in SEQ ID NO:1 which bind, preferably specifically, to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG, and optionally which enhances opsonization of PNAG-expressing bacterial strains such as PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*. As used herein, "conservative substitution" refers to an amino acid substitution which does not alter the relative charge or size characteristics of the peptide in which the amino acid substitution is made. Conservative substitutions of amino acids include substitutions made amongst amino acids with the following groups: (1) M,I,L,V; (2) F,Y,W; (3) K,R,H; (4) A,G; (5) S,T; (6) Q,N; and, (7) E,D.

[0093] Functional equivalent variants can have identity to the peptides explicitly recited herein. That is, such variants may have at least 99% identity, at least 98% identity, at least 97% identity, at least 96% identity, at least 95% identity, at least 94% identity, at least 93% identity, at least 92% identity, at least 91% identity, at least 90% identity, at least 85% identity, at least 80% identity, at least 75% identity, at least 70% identity, at least 65% identity, at least 60% identity, at least 55% identity, at least 50% identity, at least 45% identity, at least 40% identity, at least 35% identity, at least 30% identity, at least 25% identity, at least 20% identity, at least 10% identity, or at least 5% identity to the amino acid sequences provided herein.

[0094] Functional equivalence refers to an equivalent activity (e.g., binding to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG, or enhancing opsonophagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacteria such as PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*), however it also embraces variation in the level of such activity. For example, a functional equivalent is a variant that binds to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG with lesser, equal, or greater affinity than the monoclonal antibody clones described herein, provided that the variant is still useful in the invention (i.e., it binds to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG and optionally enhances opsonophagocytosis of PNAG-expressing bacteria such as PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*).

[0095] Such substitutions can be made by a variety of methods known to one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, amino acid substitutions may be made by PCR-directed mutation, site-directed mutagenesis according to the method of Kunkel (Kunkel, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 82: 488-492, 1985), or by chemical synthesis of a gene encoding the particular CDR or a peptide comprising the CDR amino acid sequences described herein. These and other methods for altering a CDR containing peptide will be known to those of ordinary skill in the art and may be found in references which compile such methods, e.g. Sambrook or Ausubel, noted above. In some embodiments, however, due to the size of the CDRs, it may be more convenient to synthesize the variant peptides using a peptide synthesizer such as those commercially available. The activity of functionally equivalent variants of the *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR can be tested by the binding assays, and in some cases biological activity assays, discussed in more detail below. As used herein, the terms "functional variant", "functionally equivalent variant" and "functionally active variant" are used interchangeably.

[0096] As used herein the term "functionally active antibody fragment" means a fragment of an antibody molecule including a *Staphylococcal* PNAG-binding or dPNAG-binding region of the invention which retains the ability to bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG or dPNAG respectively, preferably in a specific manner. Such fragments can be used both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. In particular, well-known functionally active antibody fragments include but are not limited to F(ab')₂, Fab, Fv and Fd fragments of antibodies. These fragments which lack the Fc fragment of intact antibody, clear more rapidly from the circulation, and may have less non-specific tissue binding than an intact antibody (Wah1 et al., J. Nucl. Med. 24:316-325 (1983)). As another example, single-chain antibodies can be constructed in accordance with the methods described in U.S. Patent No. 4,946,778 to Ladner et al. Such single-chain antibodies include the variable regions of the light and heavy chains joined by a flexible linker moiety. Methods for obtaining a single domain antibody ("Fd") which comprises an isolated variable heavy chain single domain, also have been reported (see, for example, Ward et al., Nature 341:644-646 (1989), disclosing a method of screening to identify an antibody heavy chain variable region (V_H single domain antibody) with sufficient affinity for its target epitope to bind thereto in isolated form). Methods for making recombinant Fv fragments based on known antibody heavy chain and light chain variable region sequences are known in the art and have been described, e.g., Moore et al., US Patent No. 4,462,334. Other references describing

the use and generation of antibody fragments include e.g., Fab fragments (Tijssen, Practice and Theory of Enzyme Immunoassays (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1985)), Fv fragments (Hochman et al., Biochemistry 12: 1130 (1973); Sharon et al., Biochemistry 15: 1591 (1976); Ehrlich et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,355,023) and portions of antibody molecules (Audilore-Hargreaves, U.S. patent No. 4,470,925). Thus, those skilled in the art may construct antibody fragments from various

portions of intact antibodies without destroying the specificity of the antibodies for *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG. [0097] In important aspects of the invention, the functionally active antibody fragment also retains the ability to opsonize and phagocytose PNAG-expressing bacteria such as PNAG-expressing *Staphylococci*. In this latter instance, the antibody fragment includes an Fc region as well as an epitope binding domain. The Fc region allows the antibody fragment to bind to Fc receptor positive cells, which subsequently phagocytose the epitope bound by the Fab region of the antibody.

[0098] Additionally small peptides including those containing the *Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG-binding CDR3 region may easily be synthesized or produced by recombinant means to produce the peptide of the disclosure. Such methods are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Peptides can be synthesized, for example, using automated peptide synthesizers which are commercially available. The peptides can be produced by recombinant techniques by incorporating the DNA expressing the peptide into an expression vector and transforming cells with the expression vector to produce the peptide.

[0099] Peptides, including antibodies, can be tested for their ability to bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG using standard binding assays known in the art. As an example of a suitable assay, PNAG and/or dPNAG, such as *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG, can be immobilized on a surface (such as in a well of a multi-well plate) and then contacted with a labeled peptide. The amount of peptide that binds to the PNAG and/or dPNAG (and thus becomes itself immobilized onto the surface) may then be quantitated to determine whether a particular peptide binds to PNAG and/or dPNAG. Alternatively, the amount of peptide not bound to the surface may also be measured. In a variation of this assay, the peptide can be tested for its ability to bind directly to a PNAG-expressing colony grown *in vitro*.

[0100] Peptide binding can also be tested using a competition assay. If the peptide being tested (including an antibody) competes with the monoclonal antibodies or antibody fragments described herein, as shown by a decrease in binding of the monoclonal antibody or fragment, then it is likely that the peptide and the monoclonal antibody bind to the same, or at least an overlapping, epitope. In this assay system, the antibody or antibody fragment is labeled and the PNAG and/or dPNAG is immobilized onto the solid surface. These and other assays are described in more detail herein. In this way, competing peptides including competing antibodies can be identified. The disclosure embraces peptides and in particular antibodies (and fragments thereof) that compete with antibody F598, F628 or F630 for binding to PNAG/dPNAG (i.e., antibodies that recognize and bind to the same epitopes as F598, F628 or F630).

[0101] Standard binding assays are well known in the art, and a number of these are suitable in the present invention including ELISA, competition binding assay (as described above), sandwich assays, radioreceptor assays using radioactively labeled peptides or radiolabeled antibodies, immunoassays, etc. The nature of the assay is not essential provided it is sufficiently sensitive to detect binding of a small number of peptides.

[0102] A variety of other reagents also can be included in the binding mixture. These include reagents such as salts, buffers, neutral proteins (e.g., albumin), detergents, etc. which may be used to facilitate optimal binding. Such a reagent may also reduce non-specific or background interactions of the reaction components. Other reagents that improve the efficiency of the assay may also be used. The mixture of the foregoing assay materials is incubated under conditions under which the monoclonal antibody normally specifically binds PNAG and/or dPNAG such as *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG. Such conditions will preferably mimic physiological conditions. The order of addition of components, incubation temperature, time of incubation, and other parameters of the assay may be readily determined. Such experimentation merely involves optimization of the assay parameters, not the fundamental composition of the assay. Incubation temperatures typically are between 4°C and 40°C. Incubation times preferably are minimized to facilitate rapid, high throughput screening, and typically are between 0.1 and 10 hours. After incubation, the presence or absence of specific binding between the peptide and PNAG and/or dPNAG is detected by any convenient method available to the user.

[0103] Typically, a plurality of assay mixtures are run in parallel with different peptides or different peptide concentrations to obtain a different response to the various concentrations. One of these concentrations serves as a negative control, i.e., at zero concentration of PNAG and/or dPNAG or at a concentration of PNAG and/or dPNAG below the limits of assay detection.

[0104] A separation step is often used to separate bound from unbound peptide or antibody. The separation step may be accomplished in a variety of ways. Conveniently, at least one of the components (e.g., peptide or antibody) is immobilized on a solid substrate via binding to PNAG and/or dPNAG. The unbound components may be easily separated from the bound fraction. The solid substrate can be made of a wide variety of materials and in a wide variety of shapes, e.g., columns or gels of polyacrylamide, agarose or sepharose, microtiter plates, microbeads, resin particles, etc. The separation step preferably includes multiple rinses or washes. For example, when the solid substrate is a microtiter plate, the wells may be washed several times with a washing solution, which typically includes those components of the incubation mixture that do not participate in specific bindings such as salts, buffer, detergent, non-specific protein, etc. Where the solid substrate is a magnetic bead, the beads may be washed one or more times with a washing solution

and isolated using a magnet.

[0105] The peptides can be used alone or in conjugates with other molecules such as detection or cytotoxic agents in the detection and treatment methods of the disclosure as described in more detail herein.

[0106] Typically, one of the components usually comprises, or is coupled or conjugated to a detectable label. A detectable label is a moiety, the presence of which can be ascertained directly or indirectly. Generally, detection of the label involves an emission of energy by the label. The label can be detected directly by its ability to emit and/or absorb photons or other atomic particles of a particular wavelength (e.g., radioactivity, luminescence, optical or electron density, etc.). A label can be detected indirectly by its ability to bind, recruit and, in some cases, cleave another moiety which itself may emit or absorb light of a particular wavelength (e.g., epitope tag such as the FLAG epitope, enzyme tag such as horseradish peroxidase, etc.). An example of indirect detection is the use of a first enzyme label which cleaves a substrate into visible products. The label may be of a chemical, peptide or nucleic acid molecule nature although it is not so limited. Other detectable labels include radioactive isotopes such as P^{32} or H^3 , luminescent markers such as fluorochromes, optical or electron density markers, etc., or epitope tags such as the FLAG epitope or the HA epitope, biotin, avidin, and enzyme tags such as horseradish peroxidase, β -galactosidase, etc. The label may be bound to a peptide during or following its synthesis. There are many different labels and methods of labeling known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Examples of the types of labels that can be used in the present invention include enzymes, radioisotopes, fluorescent compounds, colloidal metals, chemiluminescent compounds, and bioluminescent compounds. Those of ordinary skill in the art will know of other suitable labels for the peptides described herein, or will be able to ascertain such, using routine experimentation. Furthermore, the coupling or conjugation of these labels to the peptides of the disclosure can be performed using standard techniques common to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0107] Another labeling technique which may result in greater sensitivity consists of coupling the peptides to low molecular weight haptens. These haptens can then be specifically altered by means of a second reaction. For example, it is common to use haptens such as biotin, which reacts with avidin, or dinitrophenol, pyridoxal, or fluorescein, which can react with specific anti-hapten antibodies.

[0108] Conjugation of the peptides including antibodies or fragments thereof to a detectable label facilitates, among other things, the use of such agents in diagnostic assays. Another category of detectable labels includes diagnostic and imaging labels (generally referred to as *in vivo* detectable labels) such as for example magnetic resonance imaging (MRI): Gd(DOTA); for nuclear medicine: ^{201}Tl , gamma-emitting radionuclide $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$; for positron-emission tomography (PET): positron-emitting isotopes, (18)F-fluorodeoxyglucose ((18)FDG), (18)F-fluoride, copper-64, gadodiamide, and radioisotopes of Pb(II) such as ^{203}Pb ; ^{111}In .

[0109] The conjugations or modifications described herein employ routine chemistry, which chemistry does not form a part of the invention and which chemistry is well known to those skilled in the art of chemistry. The use of protecting groups and known linkers such as mono- and hetero-bifunctional linkers are well documented in the literature and will not be repeated here.

[0110] As used herein, "conjugated" means two entities stably bound to one another by any physiochemical means. It is important that the nature of the attachment is such that it does not impair substantially the effectiveness of either entity. Keeping these parameters in mind, any covalent or non-covalent linkage known to those of ordinary skill in the art may be employed. In some embodiments, covalent linkage is preferred. Noncovalent conjugation includes hydrophobic interactions, ionic interactions, high affinity interactions such as biotin-avidin and biotin-streptavidin complexation and other affinity interactions. Such means and methods of attachment are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0111] A variety of methods may be used to detect the label, depending on the nature of the label and other assay components. For example, the label may be detected while bound to the solid substrate or subsequent to separation from the solid substrate. Labels may be directly detected through optical or electron density, radioactive emissions, nonradiative energy transfers, etc. or indirectly detected with antibody conjugates, streptavidin-biotin conjugates, etc. Methods for detecting the labels are well known in the art.

[0112] The monoclonal antibodies described herein can also be used to produce anti-idiotypic antibodies that can be used to screen and identify other antibodies having the same binding specificity as the monoclonal antibodies of the invention. An anti-idiotypic antibody is an antibody which recognizes unique determinants present on a monoclonal antibody of the invention. These determinants are located in the hypervariable region of the antibody. It is this region that binds to a given epitope and is thereby responsible for the specificity of the antibody. Such anti-idiotypic antibodies can be produced using well-known hybridoma techniques (Kohler and Milstein, *Nature*, 256:495, 1975). As an example, an anti-idiotypic antibody can be prepared by immunizing a subject with the monoclonal antibody. The immunized subject will recognize and respond to the idiotype determinants of the immunizing monoclonal antibody and produce an antibody to these idiotype determinants. By using the anti-idiotypic antibodies of the immunized animal, which are specific for the monoclonal antibody of the invention, it is possible to identify other clones with the same idiotype as the monoclonal antibody used for immunization. Idiotype identity between monoclonal antibodies of two cell lines demonstrates that the two monoclonal antibodies are the same with respect to their recognition of the same epitopic determinant. Thus, by using anti-idiotypic antibodies, it is possible to identify other hybridomas expressing monoclonal antibodies having the

same epitopic specificity. The invention intends to embrace all the foregoing antibody types.

[0113] The anti-idiotypic antibodies can also be used for active immunization (Herlyn, et al., Science, 232:100, 1986), since it is possible to use the anti-idiotypic technology to produce monoclonal antibodies that mimic an epitope. For example, an anti-idiotypic monoclonal antibody made to a first monoclonal antibody will have a binding domain in the hypervariable region which is the image of the epitope bound by the first monoclonal antibody. Thus, the anti-idiotypic monoclonal antibody can be used for immunization, since the anti-idiotypic monoclonal antibody binding domain effectively acts as an antigen.

[0114] The invention further contemplates bi-specific antibodies that include a first antigen-binding domain specific for PNAG/dPNAG and a second antigen binding domain specific for another moiety. The first antigen binding domain specific for PNAG/dPNAG may comprise any of the PNAG/dPNAG binding peptides (including CDRs, variable regions, Fab fragments described herein or produced or derived from deposited hybridomas having ATCC Accession Nos. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933). The second antigen binding domain may be specific for a moiety on a cell such as a bacterial cell or a host cell. Host cells may be immune system cells or cells from the infected tissue. Antibodies for cell surface molecules expressed by immune system cells or from various host tissue cells are generally commercially available from sources such as Sigma or BD Biosciences Pharmingen. Those of ordinary skill in the art will be able to generate such bi-specific antibodies based on the teaching herein and the knowledge in the art. In a similar manner, the invention contemplates tri-specific antibodies also. (See, for example, US 5,945,311 and 6,551,592 for bi-specific and tri-specific antibody generation.)

[0115] The sequences responsible for the specificity of the monoclonal antibodies of the invention have been determined. Accordingly, peptides according to the invention can be prepared using recombinant DNA technology. There are entities in the United States which will perform this function commercially, such as Thomas Jefferson University and the Scripps Protein and Nucleic Acids Core Sequencing Facility (La Jolla, California). For example, the variable region cDNA can be prepared by polymerase chain reaction from the deposited hybridoma RNA using degenerate or non-degenerate primers (derived from the amino acid sequence). The cDNA can be subcloned to produce sufficient quantities of double stranded DNA for sequencing by conventional sequencing reactions or equipment.

[0116] With knowledge of the nucleic acid sequences of the heavy chain and light chain variable domains of the anti-*Staphylococcal* PNAG/dPNAG monoclonal antibody, one of ordinary skill in the art is able to produce nucleic acids which encode this antibody or which encode the various antibody fragments, humanized antibodies, or polypeptides described above. It is contemplated that such nucleic acids will be operably joined to other nucleic acids forming a recombinant vector for cloning or for expression of the peptides of the invention. The present invention includes any recombinant vector containing the coding sequences, or part thereof, whether for prokaryotic or eukaryotic transformation, transfection or gene therapy. Such vectors may be prepared using conventional molecular biology techniques, known to those with skill in the art, and would comprise DNA coding sequences for the CDR region (and preferably the CDR3 region) and additional variable sequences contributing to the specificity of the antibodies or parts thereof, as well as other non-specific peptide sequences and a suitable promoter either with (Whittle et al., Protein Eng. 1:499, 1987 and Burton et al., Science 266:1024-1027, 1994) or without (Marasco et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 90:7889, 1993 and Duan et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 91:5075-5079, 1994) a signal sequence for export or secretion. Such vectors may be transformed or transfected into prokaryotic (Huse et al., Science 246:1275, 1989, Ward et al., Nature 341:644-646, 1989; Marks et al., J. Mol. Biol. 222:581, 1991 and Barbas et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 88:7978, 1991) or eukaryotic (Whittle et al., 1987 and Burton et al., 1994) cells or used for gene therapy (Marasco et al., 1993 and Duan et al., 1994) by conventional techniques, known to those with skill in the art.

[0117] As used herein, a "vector" may be any of a number of nucleic acids into which a desired sequence may be inserted by restriction and ligation for transport between different genetic environments or for expression in a host cell. Vectors are typically composed of DNA although RNA vectors are also available. Vectors include, but are not limited to, plasmids and phagemids. A cloning vector is one which is able to replicate in a host cell, and which is further characterized by one or more endonuclease restriction sites at which the vector may be cut in a determinable fashion and into which a desired DNA sequence may be ligated such that the new recombinant vector retains its ability to replicate in the host cell. In the case of plasmids, replication of the desired sequence may occur many times as the plasmid increases in copy number within the host bacterium or just a single time per host before the host reproduces by mitosis. In the case of phage, replication may occur actively during a lytic phase or passively during a lysogenic phase. An expression vector is one into which a desired DNA sequence may be inserted by restriction and ligation such that it is operably joined to regulatory sequences and may be expressed as an RNA transcript. Vectors may further contain one or more marker sequences suitable for use in the identification of cells which have or have not been transformed or transfected with the vector. Markers include, for example, genes encoding proteins which increase or decrease either resistance or sensitivity to antibiotics or other compounds, genes which encode enzymes whose activities are detectable by standard assays known in the art (e.g., β -galactosidase or alkaline phosphatase), and genes which visibly affect the phenotype of transformed or transfected cells, hosts, colonies or plaques. Preferred vectors are those capable of autonomous replication and expression of the structural gene products present in the DNA segments to which they are operably joined.

[0118] The expression vectors of the present invention include regulatory sequences operably joined to a nucleotide sequence encoding one of the peptides of the invention. As used herein, the term "regulatory sequences" means nucleotide sequences which are necessary for, or conducive to, the transcription of a nucleotide sequence which encodes a desired polypeptide and/or which are necessary for or conducive to the translation of the resulting transcript into the desired polypeptide. Regulatory sequences include, but are not limited to, 5' sequences such as operators, promoters and ribosome binding sequences, and 3' sequences such as polyadenylation signals. The vectors of the invention may optionally include 5' leader or signal sequences, 5' or 3' sequences encoding fusion products to aid in protein purification, and various markers which aid in the identification or selection of transformants. The choice and design of an appropriate vector is within the ability and discretion of one of ordinary skill in the art. The subsequent purification of the peptides may be accomplished by any of a variety of standard means known in the art.

[0119] A preferred vector for screening peptides, but not necessarily preferred for the mass production of the peptides of the invention, is a recombinant DNA molecule containing a nucleotide sequence that codes for and is capable of expressing a fusion polypeptide containing, in the direction of amino- to carboxy-terminus, (1) a prokaryotic secretion signal domain, (2) a polypeptide of the invention, and, optionally, (3) a fusion protein domain. The vector includes DNA regulatory sequences for expressing the fusion polypeptide, preferably prokaryotic regulatory sequences. Such vectors can be constructed by those with skill in the art and have been described by Smith et al. (Science 228:1315-1317, 1985), Clackson et al. (Nature 352:624-628, 1991); Kang et al. (in "Methods: A Companion to Methods in Enzymology: Vol. 2", R.A. Lerner and D.R. Burton, ed. Academic Press, NY, pp 111-118, 1991); Barbas et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 88:7978-7982, 1991), Roberts et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 89:2429-2433, 1992)

[0120] A fusion polypeptide may be useful for purification of the peptides of the invention. The fusion domain may, for example, include a poly-His tail which allows for purification on Ni²⁺ columns or the maltose binding protein of the commercially available vector pMAL (New England BioLabs, Beverly, MA). A currently preferred, but by no means necessary, fusion domain is a filamentous phage membrane anchor. This domain is particularly useful for screening phage display libraries of monoclonal antibodies but may be of less utility for the mass production of antibodies. The filamentous phage membrane anchor is preferably a domain of the cplII or cpVIII coat protein capable of associating with the matrix of a filamentous phage particle, thereby incorporating the fusion polypeptide onto the phage surface, to enable solid phase binding to specific antigens or epitopes and thereby allow enrichment and selection of the specific antibodies or fragments encoded by the phagemid vector.

[0121] The secretion signal is a leader peptide domain of a protein that targets the protein membrane of the host cell, such as the periplasmic membrane of gram negative bacteria. A preferred secretion signal for *E. coli* is a pelB secretion signal. The predicted amino acid residue sequences of the secretion signal domain from two pelB gene producing variants from *Erwinia carotovora* are described in Lei, et al. (Nature 381:543-546, 1988). The leader sequence of the pelB protein has previously been used as a secretion signal for fusion proteins (Better, et al., Science 240:1041-1043, 1988; Sastry, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 86:5728-5732, 1989; and Mullinax, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 87:8095-8099, 1990). Amino acid residue sequences for other secretion signal polypeptide domains from *E. coli* useful in this invention can be found in Oliver, In Neidhard, F.C. (ed.), *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella Typhimurium*, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C., 1:56-69 (1987).

[0122] To achieve high levels of gene expression in *E. coli*, it is necessary to use not only strong promoters to generate large quantities of mRNA, but also ribosome binding sites to ensure that the mRNA is efficiently translated. In *E. coli*, the ribosome binding site includes an initiation codon (AUG) and a sequence 3-9 nucleotides long located 3-11 nucleotides upstream from the initiation codon (Shine, et al., Nature 254:34, 1975). The sequence, AGGAGGU, which is called the Shine-Dalgarno (SD) sequence, is complementary to the 3' end of *E. coli* 16S rRNA. Binding of the ribosome to mRNA and the sequence at the 3' end of the mRNA can be affected by several factors: (i) the degree of complementarity between the SD sequence and 3' end of the 16S rRNA; (ii) the spacing and possibly the DNA sequence lying between the SD sequence and the AUG (Roberts, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 76:760, 1979a; Roberts, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA) 76:5596, 1979b; Guarente, et al., Science 209:1428, 1980; and Guarente, et al., Cell 20:543, 1980). Optimization is achieved by measuring the level of expression of genes in plasmids in which this spacing is systematically altered. Comparison of different mRNAs shows that there are statistically preferred sequences from positions -20 to +13 (where the A of the AUG is position 0) (Gold, et al., Annu. Rev. Microbiol. 35:365, 1981). Leader sequences have been shown to influence translation dramatically (Roberts, et al., 1979a, b supra); and (iii) the nucleotide sequence following the AUG, which affects ribosome binding (Taniguchi, et al., J. Mol. Biol., 118:533, 1978).

[0123] The 3' regulatory sequences define at least one termination (stop) codon in frame with and operably joined to the heterologous fusion polypeptide.

[0124] In preferred embodiments with a prokaryotic expression host, the vector utilized includes a prokaryotic origin of replication or replicon, i.e., a DNA sequence having the ability to direct autonomous replication and maintenance of the recombinant DNA molecule extra-chromosomally in a prokaryotic host cell, such as a bacterial host cell, transformed therewith. Such origins of replication are well known in the art. Preferred origins of replication are those that are efficient in the host organism. A preferred host cell is *E. coli*. For use of a vector in *E. coli*, a preferred origin of replication is

ColE1 found in pBR322 and a variety of other common plasmids. Also preferred is the p15A origin of replication found on pACYC and its derivatives. The ColE1 and p15A replicons have been extensively utilized in molecular biology, are available on a variety of plasmids and are described by Sambrook. et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989).

[0125] In addition, those embodiments that include a prokaryotic replicon preferably also include a gene whose expression confers a selective advantage, such as drug resistance, to a bacterial host transformed therewith. Typical bacterial drug resistance genes are those that confer resistance to ampicillin, tetracycline, neomycin/kanamycin or chloramphenicol. Vectors typically also contain convenient restriction sites for insertion of translatable DNA sequences. Exemplary vectors are the plasmids pUC18 and pUC19 and derived vectors such as pcDNAII available from Invitrogen (San Diego, CA).

[0126] When the peptide of the invention is an antibody including both heavy chain and light chain sequences, these sequences may be encoded on separate vectors or, more conveniently, may be expressed by a single vector. The heavy and light chain may, after translation or after secretion, form the heterodimeric structure of natural antibody molecules. Such a heterodimeric antibody may or may not be stabilized by disulfide bonds between the heavy and light chains.

[0127] A vector for expression of heterodimeric antibodies, such as the intact antibodies of the invention or the F(ab')₂, Fab or Fv fragment antibodies of the invention, is a recombinant DNA molecule adapted for receiving and expressing translatable first and second DNA sequences. That is, a DNA expression vector for expressing a heterodimeric antibody provides a system for independently cloning (inserting) the two translatable DNA sequences into two separate cassettes present in the vector, to form two separate cistrons for expressing the first and second polypeptides of a heterodimeric antibody. The DNA expression vector for expressing two cistrons is referred to as a dicistronic expression vector.

[0128] Preferably, the vector comprises a first cassette that includes upstream and downstream DNA regulatory sequences operably joined via a sequence of nucleotides adapted for directional ligation to an insert DNA. The upstream translatable sequence preferably encodes the secretion signal as described above. The cassette includes DNA regulatory sequences for expressing the first antibody polypeptide that is produced when an insert translatable DNA sequence (insert DNA) is directionally inserted into the cassette via the sequence of nucleotides adapted for directional ligation.

[0129] The dicistronic expression vector also contains a second cassette for expressing the second antibody polypeptide. The second cassette includes a second translatable DNA sequence that preferably encodes a secretion signal, as described above, operably joined at its 3' terminus via a sequence of nucleotides adapted for directional ligation to a downstream DNA sequence of the vector that typically defines at least one stop codon in the reading frame of the cassette. The second translatable DNA sequence is operably joined at its 5' terminus to DNA regulatory sequences forming the 5' elements. The second cassette is capable, upon insertion of a translatable DNA sequence (insert DNA), of expressing the second fusion polypeptide comprising a secretion signal with a polypeptide coded by the insert DNA.

[0130] The peptides of the present disclosure may also be produced by eukaryotic cells such as CHO cells, human hybridomas, immortalized B-lymphoblastoid cells, and the like. In this case, a vector is constructed in which eukaryotic regulatory sequences are operably joined to the nucleotide sequences encoding the peptide. The design and selection of an appropriate eukaryotic vector is within the ability and discretion of one of ordinary skill in the art. The subsequent purification of the peptides may be accomplished by any of a variety of standard means known in the art.

[0131] In another embodiment, the present invention provides host cells, both prokaryotic and eukaryotic, transformed or transfected with, and therefore including, the vectors of the present invention.

[0132] As used herein with respect to nucleic acids, the term "isolated" means: (i) amplified *in vitro* by, for example, polymerase chain reaction (PCR); (ii) recombinantly produced by cloning; (iii) purified, as by cleavage and gel separation; or (iv) synthesized by, for example, chemical synthesis. An isolated nucleic acid is one which is readily manipulable by recombinant DNA techniques well known in the art. Thus, a nucleotide sequence contained in a vector in which 5' and 3' restriction sites are known or for which polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primer sequences have been disclosed is considered isolated but a nucleic acid sequence existing in its native state in its natural host is not. An isolated nucleic acid may be substantially purified, but need not be. For example, a nucleic acid that is isolated within a cloning or expression vector is not pure in that it may comprise only a tiny percentage of the material in the cell in which it resides. Such a nucleic acid is isolated, however, as the term is used herein because it is readily manipulable by standard techniques known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0133] As used herein, a coding sequence and regulatory sequences are said to be "operably joined" when they are covalently linked in such a way as to place the expression or transcription of the coding sequence under the influence or control of the regulatory sequences. If it is desired that the coding sequences be translated into a functional protein, two DNA sequences are said to be operably joined if induction of a promoter in the 5' regulatory sequences results in the transcription of the coding sequence and if the nature of the linkage between the two DNA sequences does not (1) result in the introduction of a frame-shift mutation, (2) interfere with the ability of the promoter region to direct the transcription of the coding sequences, or (3) interfere with the ability of the corresponding RNA transcript to be translated into a protein. Thus, a promoter region would be operably joined to a coding sequence if the promoter region were capable of effecting transcription of that DNA sequence such that the resulting transcript might be translated into the

desired protein or polypeptide.

[0134] The precise nature of the regulatory sequences needed for gene expression may vary between species or cell types, but shall in general include, as necessary, 5' non-transcribing and 5' non-translating sequences involved with initiation of transcription and translation respectively, such as a TATA box, capping sequence, CAAT sequence, and the like. Especially, such 5' non-transcribing regulatory sequences will include a promoter region which includes a promoter sequence for transcriptional control of the operably joined gene. Regulatory sequences may also include enhancer sequences or upstream activator sequences, as desired.

[0135] The disclosure also intends to embrace the use of the peptides described herein in *in vivo* and *in vitro* methods. The methods of the disclosure are useful for diagnosing as well as treating infections by PNAG-expressing bacteria such as *Staphylococcal* infections. "*Staphylococci*" as used herein refers to all *Staphylococcal* bacterial species expressing the PNAG antigen. Bacteria that are classified as *Staphylococci* are well known to those of skill in the art and are described in the microbiology literature. *Staphylococci* expressing PNAG include but are not limited to *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (including RP62A (ATCC Number 35984), RP12 (ATCC Number 35983), and M187), *Staphylococcus aureus* (including RN4220 (pCN27) and MN8 mucoid), and strains such as *Staphylococcus carnosus* transformed with the genes in the *ica* locus (including TM300 (pCN27)). Other bacterial strains expressing PNAG naturally carry or are transformed with the *pga* locus. Examples include *E. coli*, *Yersinia pestis* (*Y. pestis*), *Y. enterocolitica*, *Xanthomonas axonopodis*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (all of which are sequenced species with complete *pgaABCD* loci), and *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* (*A. actinomycetemcomitans*), *A. pleuropneumoniae*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* (e.g., megaplasmid form), *Bordetella pertussis* (*B. pertussis*), *B. parapertussis* and *B. bronchiseptica*. Other bacterial strains expressing PNAG can be identified easily by those of ordinary skill in the art. For instance, bacteria that carry the *ica* or *pga* locus can produce PNAG. One of ordinary skill in the art can easily screen for the expression of mRNA or protein related to the *ica* or *pga* locus since the nucleic acid sequences of the *ica* and *pga* locus are known (described in Heilmann, C., O. Schweitzer, C. Gerke, N. Vanittanakom, D. Mack and F. Gotz (1996) Molecular basis of intercellular adhesion in the biofilm-forming *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. Molec. Microbiol. 20:1083 for *S. epidermidis* and in Cramton SE, Gerke C, Schnell NF, Nichols WW, Gotz F. The intercellular adhesion (*ica*) locus is present in *Staphylococcus aureus* and is required for biofilm formation. Infect Immun. 1999 Oct;67(10):5427-33) for *S. aureus*; Blattner, F. R., G. Plunkett III, C. A. Bloch, N. T. Perna, V. Burland, M. Riley, J. Collado-Vides, J. D. Glasner, C. K. Rode, G. F. Mayhew, J. Gregor, N. W. Davis, H. A. Kirkpatrick, M. A. Goeden, D. J. Rose, B. Mau, and Y. Shao. 1997. The complete genome sequence of *Escherichia coli* K-12. Science 277:1453-1474. The genes reported by Blattner et al. were designated *ycdSRQP* in and renamed *pgaABCD* in Wang et al., J. Bacteriology, May 2004, p. 2724-2734, Vol. 186, No. 9.) Additionally the capsule of bacterial strains can be isolated and analyzed using liquid chromatography and mass spectroscopy.

[0136] The detection or diagnosis methods provided by the invention generally involve contacting one or more peptides of the invention with a sample in or from a subject. Preferably, the sample is first harvested from the subject, although *in vivo* detection methods are also envisioned. The sample may include any body tissue or fluid that is suspected of harboring the bacteria. For example, a *Staphylococcal* infection can occur in essentially all tissues, organs and fluids of the human body but are most commonly found infecting the skin, bones, joints lungs and blood. An *E. coli* infection can occur, for example, in the genito-urinary tract, as well as other tissues and locations. *Y. pestis* infection is the cause of bubonic plague in the skin and pneumonic plague in the lung. *B. pertussis* infection causes whooping cough in the respiratory tract. Essentially any bodily fluid, tissue or organ such as skin, bone, joints, lungs, mucous such as phlegm and blood can be tested for the presence of the bacteria.

[0137] As used herein, the term "treatment" refers to the administration of peptides to a subject for the purpose of achieving a medically desirable benefit. Accordingly, "treatment" intends to embrace both "prophylactic" and "therapeutic" treatment methods. Prophylactic treatment methods refer to treatment administered to a subject prior to the diagnosis of an infection (such as a *Staphylococcal* infection). In other words, the subject does not present with symptoms of an infection (such as a *Staphylococcal* infection) although the subject may be at risk thereof. Therapeutic treatment methods refer to treatment administered to a subject after the diagnosis of an infection (such as a *Staphylococcal* infection). In other words, the subject has been diagnosed as having an infection (such as a *Staphylococcal* infection) or alternatively, the subject may exhibit symptoms associated with such an infection.

[0138] The anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibodies of the invention are useful for inducing passive immunization in a subject to prevent or limit the development of systemic infection and disease in those subjects at risk of exposure to infectious agents. The method for inducing passive immunity to infection by PNAG-expressing bacteria, such as *Staphylococci* such as *S. aureus*, is performed by administering to a subject an effective amount of an anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody (e.g., one that causes opsonization of *Staphylococci* such as *S. aureus*). "Passive immunity" as used herein involves the administration of antibodies to a subject, wherein the antibodies are produced in a different subject (including subjects of the same and different species), such that the antibodies attach to the surface of the bacteria and cause the bacteria to be phagocytosed.

[0139] The anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody may be administered to any subject at risk of developing an infection by bacteria that express PNAG (e.g., PNAG-expressing *Staphylococcal* infection) to induce passive immunity, and in some

embodiments may be particularly suited for subjects incapable of inducing active immunity to PNAG and/or dPNAG. A subject that is incapable of inducing an immune response is an immunocompromised subject (e.g. patient undergoing chemotherapy, AIDS patient, etc.) or a subject that has not yet developed an immune system (e.g. pre-term neonate).

[0140] A "subject" as used herein is a warm-blooded mammal and includes but is not limited to humans, primates, agricultural animals such as horses, cows, swine, goats, sheep and chicken, and domestic animals such as dogs and cats. In some embodiments, the subject is a non-rodent subject. A non-rodent subject is any subject as defined above, but specifically excluding rodents such as mice, rats, and rabbits. In some embodiments, the preferred subject is a human. In some instances, the subject may be one that has or will receive a prosthesis such as a hip or knee replacement since such devices are especially prone to colonization by bacteria. As stated herein, some aspects of the invention provide for detection and treatment of infections in plants also.

[0141] The anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody of the invention is administered to the subject in an effective amount for inducing immunity to PNAG-expressing bacteria (e.g., *Staphylococci* such as *S. aureus*). An "effective amount for inducing immunity to PNAG-expressing bacteria" is an amount of anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody that is sufficient to (i) prevent infection by such bacteria from occurring in a subject that is exposed to such bacteria; (ii) inhibit the development of infection, i.e., arresting or slowing its development; and/or (iii) relieve the effects of the infection, i.e., reduction in bacterial load or complete eradication of the bacteria in infected subjects. As an example, an "effective amount for inducing immunity to *Staphylococci*" as used herein is an amount of anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody that is sufficient to (i) prevent infection by *Staphylococci* from occurring in a subject that is exposed to *Staphylococci*; (ii) inhibit the development of infection, i.e., arresting or slowing its development; and/or (iii) relieve the effects of the infection, i.e., reduction in bacterial load or complete eradication of the bacteria in infected subjects.

[0142] Using routine procedures known to those of ordinary skill in the art, one can determine whether an amount of anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody is an "effective amount for inducing immunity to infection" by using an *in vitro* opsonization assay which is predictive of the degree of opsonization of an antibody. An antibody that opsonizes PNAG-expressing bacteria such as PNAG-expressing *Staphylococcal* bacteria is one that when added to a sample of such bacteria causes phagocytosis of the bacteria. An opsonization assay may be a colorimetric assay, a chemiluminescent assay, a fluorescent or radiolabel uptake assay, a cell mediated bactericidal assay or other assay which measures the opsonic potential of a material.

[0143] Antibody doses ranging from 1 ng/kg to 100 mg/kg, depending upon the mode of administration, will be effective. The preferred range is believed to be between 500 ng and 500 μ g/kg, and most preferably between 1-100 μ g/kg. The absolute amount will depend upon a variety of factors including whether the administration is performed on a high risk subject not yet infected with the bacteria or on a subject already having an infection, the concurrent treatment, the number of doses and the individual patient parameters including age, physical condition, size and weight. These are factors well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and can be addressed with no more than routine experimentation. It is preferred generally that a maximum dose be used, that is, the highest safe dose according to sound medical judgment.

[0144] Multiple doses of the antibodies of the invention are also contemplated. Generally immunization schemes involve the administration of a high dose of an antibody followed by subsequent lower doses of antibody after a waiting period of several weeks. Further doses may be administered as well. The dosage schedule for passive immunization may require more frequent administration. Desired time intervals for delivery of multiple doses of a particular PNAG/dPNAG antibody can be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art employing no more than routine experimentation.

[0145] A variety of administration routes are available. The particular mode selected will depend, of course, upon the particular anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody selected, the particular condition being treated and the dosage required for therapeutic efficacy. The methods of this invention, generally speaking, may be practiced using any mode of administration that is medically acceptable, meaning any mode that produces effective levels of protection without causing clinically unacceptable adverse effects. Preferred modes of administration are parenteral routes. The term "parenteral" includes subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, and intrasternal injection, or infusion techniques. Other routes include but are not limited to oral, nasal, dermal, sublingual, and local.

[0146] The anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibodies of the invention may be delivered in conjunction with other anti-bacterial drugs (e.g., antibiotics) or with other anti-bacterial antibodies. The use of antibiotics in the treatment of bacterial infection is routine. A common administration vehicle (e.g., tablet, implant, injectable solution, etc.) may contain both the antibody of the invention and the anti-bacterial drug and/or antibody. Alternatively, the anti-bacterial drug and/or antibody can be separately dosed. The anti-bacterial drug or antibody can also be conjugated to the anti-PNAG/dPNAG antibody.

[0147] Anti-bacterial drugs are well known and include: penicillin G, penicillin V, ampicillin, amoxicillin, bacampicillin, cyclacillin, epicillin, hetacillin, pivampicillin, methicillin, nafcillin, oxacillin, cloxacillin, dicloxacillin, flucloxacillin, carbenicillin, ticarcillin, avlocillin, mezlocillin, piperacillin, amdinocillin, cephalixin, cephradine, cefadroxil, cefaclor, cefazolin, cefuroxime axetil, cefamandole, cefonicid, cefoxitin, cefotaxime, ceftizoxime, cefmenoxime, ceftriaxone, moxalactam, cefotetan, cefoperazone, ceftazidime, imipenem, clavulanate, timentin, sulbactam, neomycin, erythromycin, metronidazole, chloramphenicol, clindamycin, lincomycin, vancomycin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, aminoglycosides, quinolones, tetracyclines and rifampin. (See Goodman and Gilman's, Pharmacological Basics of Therapeutics, 8th Ed., 1993,

McGraw Hill Inc.).

[0148] According to the methods of the disclosure, the peptide may be administered in a pharmaceutical composition. In general, a pharmaceutical composition comprises the peptide of the disclosure and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier. Pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers for peptides, monoclonal antibodies, and antibody fragments are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the art. As used herein, a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier means a non-toxic material that does not interfere with the effectiveness of the biological activity of the active ingredients, e.g., the ability of the peptide to bind to *Staphylococcal* PNAG and/or dPNAG and optionally to enhance opsonization and phagocytosis.

[0149] Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include diluents, fillers, salts, buffers, stabilizers, solubilizers and other materials which are well-known in the art. Exemplary pharmaceutically acceptable carriers for peptides in particular are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,211,657. Such preparations may routinely contain salt, buffering agents, preservatives, compatible carriers, and optionally other therapeutic agents. When used in medicine, the salts should be pharmaceutically acceptable, but non-pharmaceutically acceptable salts may conveniently be used to prepare pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof and are not excluded from the scope of the invention. Such pharmacologically and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts include, but are not limited to, those prepared from the following acids: hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric, phosphoric, maleic, acetic, salicylic, citric, formic, malonic, succinic, and the like. Also, pharmaceutically-acceptable salts can be prepared as alkaline metal or alkaline earth salts, such as sodium, potassium or calcium salts.

[0150] The peptides of the disclosure may be formulated into preparations in solid, semi-solid, liquid or gaseous forms such as tablets, capsules, powders, granules, ointments, solutions, depositories, inhalants and injections, and usual ways for oral, parenteral or surgical administration. The invention also embraces pharmaceutical compositions which are formulated for local administration, such as by implants.

[0151] Compositions suitable for oral administration may be presented as discrete units, such as capsules, tablets, lozenges, each containing a predetermined amount of the active agent. Other compositions include suspensions in aqueous liquids or non-aqueous liquids such as a syrup, elixir or an emulsion.

[0152] When the compounds described herein (including peptide and non-peptide varieties) are used therapeutically, in certain embodiments a desirable route of administration may be by pulmonary aerosol. Techniques for preparing aerosol delivery systems containing compounds are well known to those of skill in the art. Generally, such systems should utilize components which will not significantly impair the biological properties of the peptides (see, for example, Sciarra and Cutie, "Aerosols," in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th edition, 1990, pp 1694-1712; incorporated by reference). Those of skill in the art can readily determine the various parameters and conditions for producing aerosols without resort to undue experimentation.

[0153] The methods of the disclosure also encompass the step of administering the peptides of the invention in conjunction with conventional therapies for treating the underlying bacterial infection. For example, the method of the disclosure may be practiced simultaneously with a conventional treatment, such as for example antibiotic therapy. In some embodiments, the peptides may be administered substantially simultaneously with the conventional treatment. By substantially simultaneously, it is meant that a peptide of the disclosure is administered to a subject close enough in time with the administration of the conventional treatment (e.g., antibiotic), whereby the two compounds may exert an additive or even synergistic effect. In some instances, the peptide and the agent of the conventional treatment are conjugated to each other. In others, the compounds are physically separate.

[0154] The peptides of the disclosure may be administered directly to a tissue. Preferably, the tissue is one in which the bacterial infection exists. Alternatively, the tissue is one in which the infection is likely to arise. Direct tissue administration may be achieved by direct injection. The peptides may be administered once, or alternatively they may be administered in a plurality of administrations. If administered multiple times, the peptides may be administered via different routes. For example, the first (or the first few) administrations may be made directly into the affected tissue while later administrations may be systemic.

[0155] Preparations for parenteral administration include sterile aqueous or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions, and emulsions. Examples of non-aqueous solvents are propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, vegetable oils such as olive oil, and injectable organic esters such as ethyl oleate. Aqueous carriers include water, alcoholic/aqueous solutions, emulsions or suspensions, including saline and buffered media. Parenteral vehicles include sodium chloride solution, Ringer's dextrose, dextrose and sodium chloride, lactated Ringer's, or fixed oils. Intravenous vehicles include fluid and nutrient replenishers, electrolyte replenishers (such as those based on Ringer's dextrose), and the like. Preservatives and other additives may also be present such as, for example, antimicrobials, anti-oxidants, chelating agents, and inert gases and the like. Lower doses will result from other forms of administration, such as intravenous administration. In the event that a response in a subject is insufficient at the initial doses applied, higher doses (or effectively higher doses by a different, more localized delivery route) may be employed to the extent that patient tolerance permits. Multiple doses per day are contemplated to achieve appropriate systemic levels of compounds.

[0156] In yet other embodiments, the preferred vehicle is a biocompatible microparticle or implant that is suitable for implantation into the mammalian recipient. Exemplary bioerodible implants that are useful in accordance with this method are described in PCT International Application No. PCT/US/03307 (Publication No. WO 95/24929, entitled "Polymeric

Gene Delivery System", claiming priority to U.S. patent application serial no. 213,668, filed March 15, 1994). PCT/US/0307 describes a biocompatible, preferably biodegradable polymeric matrix for containing a biological macromolecule. The polymeric matrix may be used to achieve sustained release of the agent in a subject. In accordance with one aspect of the instant invention, the agent described herein may be encapsulated or dispersed within the biocompatible, preferably biodegradable polymeric matrix disclosed in PCT/US/03307. The polymeric matrix preferably is in the form of a micro-particle such as a microsphere (wherein the agent is dispersed throughout a solid polymeric matrix) or a microcapsule (wherein the agent is stored in the core of a polymeric shell). Other forms of the polymeric matrix for containing the agent include films, coatings, gels, implants, and stents. The size and composition of the polymeric matrix device is selected to result in favorable release kinetics in the tissue into which the matrix device is implanted. The size of the polymeric matrix device further is selected according to the method of delivery which is to be used, typically injection into a tissue or administration of a suspension by aerosol into the nasal and/or pulmonary areas. The polymeric matrix composition can be selected to have both favorable degradation rates and also to be formed of a material which is bioadhesive, to further increase the effectiveness of transfer when the device is administered to a vascular, pulmonary, or other surface. The matrix composition also can be selected not to degrade, but rather, to release by diffusion over an extended period of time.

[0157] Both non-biodegradable and biodegradable polymeric matrices can be used to deliver the agents of the invention to the subject. Biodegradable matrices are preferred. Such polymers may be natural or synthetic polymers. Synthetic polymers are preferred. The polymer is selected based on the period of time over which release is desired, generally in the order of a few hours to a year or longer. Typically, release over a period ranging from between a few hours and three to twelve months is most desirable. The polymer optionally is in the form of a hydrogel that can absorb up to about 90% of its weight in water and further, optionally is cross-linked with multivalent ions or other polymers.

[0158] In general, the agents of the invention may be delivered using the bioerodible implant by way of diffusion, or more preferably, by degradation of the polymeric matrix. Exemplary synthetic polymers which can be used to form the biodegradable delivery system include: polyamides, polycarbonates, polyalkylenes, polyalkylene glycols, polyalkylene oxides, polyalkylene terephthalates, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl esters, poly-vinyl halides, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyglycolides, polysiloxanes, polyurethanes and co-polymers thereof, alkyl cellulose, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, cellulose ethers, cellulose esters, nitro celluloses, polymers of acrylic and methacrylic esters, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxy-propyl methyl cellulose, hydroxybutyl methyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, cellulose acetate phthalate, carboxylethyl cellulose, cellulose triacetate, cellulose sulphate sodium salt, poly(methyl methacrylate), poly(ethyl methacrylate), poly(butylmethacrylate), poly(isobutyl methacrylate), poly(hexylmethacrylate), poly(isodecyl methacrylate), poly(lauryl methacrylate), poly(phenyl methacrylate), poly(methyl acrylate), poly(isopropyl acrylate), poly(isobutyl acrylate), poly(octadecyl acrylate), polyethylene, polypropylene, poly(ethylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide), poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(vinyl alcohols), polyvinyl acetate, poly vinyl chloride, polystyrene and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

[0159] Examples of non-biodegradable polymers include ethylene vinyl acetate, poly(meth)acrylic acid, polyamides, copolymers and mixtures thereof.

[0160] Examples of biodegradable polymers include synthetic polymers such as polymers of lactic acid and glycolic acid, polyanhydrides, poly(ortho)esters, polyurethanes, poly(butic acid), poly(valeric acid), and poly(lactide-cocaprolactone), and natural polymers such as alginate and other polysaccharides including dextran and cellulose, collagen, chemical derivatives thereof (substitutions, additions of chemical groups, for example, alkyl, alkylene, hydroxylations, oxidations, and other modifications routinely made by those skilled in the art), albumin and other hydrophilic proteins, zein and other prolamines and hydrophobic proteins, copolymers and mixtures thereof. In general, these materials degrade either by enzymatic hydrolysis or exposure to water *in vivo*, by surface or bulk erosion.

[0161] Bioadhesive polymers of particular interest include bioerodible hydrogels described by H.S. Sawhney, C.P. Pathak and J.A. Hubell in *Macromolecules*, 1993, 26, 581-587, the teachings of which are incorporated herein, polyhyaluronic acids, casein, gelatin, glutin, polyanhydrides, polyacrylic acid, alginate, chitosan, poly(methyl methacrylates), poly(ethyl methacrylates), poly(butylmethacrylate), poly(isobutyl methacrylate), poly(hexylmethacrylate), poly(isodecyl methacrylate), poly(lauryl methacrylate), poly(phenyl methacrylate), poly(methyl acrylate), poly(isopropyl acrylate), poly(isobutyl acrylate), and poly(octadecyl acrylate).

[0162] Other delivery systems can include time-release, delayed release or sustained release delivery systems. Such systems can avoid repeated administrations of the peptide, increasing convenience to the subject and the physician. Many types of release delivery systems are available and known to those of ordinary skill in the art. They include polymer base systems such as poly(lactide-glycolide), copolyoxalates, polycaprolactones, polyesteramides, polyorthoesters, polyhydroxybutyric acid, and polyanhydrides. Microcapsules of the foregoing polymers containing drugs are described in, for example, U.S. Patent 5,075,109. Delivery systems also include non-polymer systems that are: lipids including sterols such as cholesterol, cholesterol esters and fatty acids or neutral fats such as mono- di- and triglycerides; hydrogel release systems; silastic systems; peptide based systems; wax coatings; compressed tablets using conventional binders and excipients; partially fused implants; and the like. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: (a) erosional

systems in which the platelet reducing agent is contained in a form within a matrix such as those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,452,775, 4,675,189, and 5,736,152 and (b) diffusional systems in which an active component permeates at a controlled rate from a polymer such as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,854,480, 5,133,974 and 5,407,686. In addition, pump-based hardware delivery systems can be used, some of which are adapted for implantation.

[0163] Use of a long-term sustained release implant may be particularly suitable for prophylactic treatment of subjects at risk of developing an infection such as a *Staphylococcal* infection. Long-term release, as used herein, means that the implant is constructed and arranged to delivery therapeutic levels of the active ingredient for at least 30 days, and preferably 60 days. Long-term sustained release implants are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the art and include some of the release systems described above.

[0164] The following examples are provided to illustrate specific instances of the practice of the present invention and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. As will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art, the present invention will find application in a variety of compositions and methods.

Examples

[0165] *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis* are associated with a wide range of hospital and community acquired infections. The rise of antibiotic resistance drives the development of new therapies to treat and prevent these infections. Adhesion of the bacteria to host tissues or to implanted prosthetic devices is often important for a successful *Staphylococcal* infection. One such adhesion molecule expressed on the surface of *Staphylococci in vivo* and found to be a target of protective antibodies is poly-N acetyl-glucosamine (PNAG). This adhesion molecule is expressed and employed by other bacteria such as but not limited to *E. coli*.

Experimental Procedures

Hybridomas:

[0166] Blood was collected from patients after the onset of *S. aureus* infection and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from the blood samples using Ficoll Hypaque sedimentation. B cells were stimulated by overnight exposure to Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) produced from the B95.8 cell line as described by Posner et al. (Posner et al. Epstein Barr virus transformation of peripheral blood B cells secreting antibodies reactive with cell surface antigens. Autoimmunity. 1990;8(2):149-58.) After 24 hours, the cells were washed and dispersed into 96 well plates at a concentration of 1×10^6 PBMC/well in 100 μ l of growth media (RPMI1640 supplemented with 20% FBS) containing 10% Lymphocyte Conditioned Medium (LyCM, prepared from human PBMC stimulated for 48 hours with phytohemagglutinin). After 5 days, an additional 100 μ l of growth media supplemented with 10% LyCM was added. EBV stimulated cells were then fed weekly by removal of 100 μ l of spent media and the addition of 100 μ l of growth media supplemented with 10% LyCM.

[0167] When the wells were densely seeded (as evidenced by growth over 80% of the bottom of the well surface and the appearance of a pH change in the media indicative of cellular growth), the cultures were screened for production of specific antibody to PNAG/dPNAG by ELISA. The cells from single individual wells giving a positive reaction for antibody were then dispersed into 48 wells of a tissue culture plate and after several days of growth the supernates tested for reactivity with PNAG/dPNAG antigen.

[0168] Cultures that continued to test positive by ELISA were then fused with the human-mouse myeloma cell line HMMA 2.5 to generate hybridomas as previously described (Posner et al. The construction and use of a human-mouse myeloma analogue suitable for the routine production of hybridomas secreting human monoclonal antibodies. Hybridoma. 1987 Dec;6(6):611-25). After fusion, cells were cultured in microwell plates with growth medium (RPMI 1640 supplemented with 20% FBS and hypoxanthine-aminopterin-thymidine (HAT) and ouabain) for selection of fused cells. These cultures were fed at weekly intervals and screened by ELISA for antibody production.

[0169] Hybridomas were cloned at a density of 1 cell/well, wells with positive growth screened by ELISA for specific antibody, and wells containing positive antibody-producing hybridomas expanded into wells in tissue culture plates of increasing volume, then flasks of increasing volume to obtain cloned cell lines. Three hybridomas, designated F598, F628 and F630, producing human IgG2 antibodies that bound to either PNAG, dPNAG or both were recovered.

Chemical modification of PNAG:

[0170] To remove the majority of the N- and O- substituents, purified PNAG was dissolved in 5M NaOH to a final concentration of 0.5mg/ml and incubated for 18 hr at 37°C with stirring. The strong base solution was then neutralized with 5N HCl, to a final pH between 6 and 8, and dialyzed against dH₂O for 24 hrs. The final product was obtained by freeze drying the sample.

ELISAs:

[0171] Immulon 4 microtiter plates were coated with 100 μ l of the optimal binding concentration of each antigen (0.6 μ g/ml for native PNAG and 3 μ g/ml for dPNAG) in sensitizing buffer (0.2M NaH₂PO₄, 0.2M Na₂HPO₄, 0.02% azide) and incubated overnight at 4°C. Plates were washed 3x with PBS/0.05% tween and blocked with 200 μ l of 5% skim milk in PBS, and then incubated overnight at 4°C. The plates were washed and purified MABs were added at various concentrations, diluted in 5% skim milk/0.05% tween in PBS (dilution buffer). The plates were then incubated for 1 hr at 37°C and washed. 100 μ l of secondary antibody (anti-human IgG whole molecule-conjugated to alkaline phosphatase (AP) and obtained from ICN) was added at a 1:1000 dilution made in the dilution buffer. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 1 hr and washed. 100 μ l of p-Nitrophenyl Phosphate at a concentration of 1mg/ml in substrate buffer (800mg NaHCO₃, 1.46g Na₂CO₃, 10mg MgCl, 20mg Na₃N in 500ml H₂O) was added and the plates were incubated at room temperature for 30 min. The plates were read at 405nm. Purified human IgG from Sigma was used as a standard to quantify MABs on plates sensitized with anti-human IgG.

Complement deposition assay:

[0172] Microtiter plates were prepared as for the ELISA assay. After incubation with the MAb and washing, normal human sera absorbed with three different *S. aureus* strains was used as a source of complement at a dilution of 1:50 in dilution buffer. The plates were incubated for 15 min at 37°C. After washing the plate, goat anti-human C3 antibody was added at a concentration of 1:2000 and incubated for one hour at 37°C. An anti goat IgG -AP conjugate was added at 1:2000 and incubated at 37°C for one hour. The plates were developed essentially as for the ELISA assay, except only for a 15 min duration.

Opsonophagocytic assays:

[0173] Opsonophagocytic killing assays have been described previously. (See Ames et al. Infection and Immunity 49:281-285, 1985 and Maira-Litran et al. Infect Immun. 70(8):4433-4440, 2002.) The target strain used is Mn8 (*S. aureus*). The target strain was grown to an optical density at a wavelength of 650 nm (OD₆₅₀) of 0.4 and diluted to 1:100 for the assay. Complement (obtained from an infant rabbit via a commercial source such as Accurate Chemical And Scientific Corp. Westbury, New York 11590, and used at a 1:15 dilution) was absorbed for 1 hr with the Mn8m strain of *S. aureus* (resuspended to an OD₆₅₀ of 1.0). Polymorphonuclear cells (PMNs) were separated from freshly drawn human blood using Heparin/dextran (1:1 mix). PMNs were used at a concentration of 5x10⁶ cells/ml. Solutions with the monoclonal antibodies at various concentrations are used as the antibody source. One hundred μ l of each component (monoclonal antibody solution, PMNs, complement, target bacteria) were added together and then incubated for 1.5 hr at 37°C, while rotating. Supernates were taken and dilutions made and then aliquots plated on tryptic soy agar (TSA), generally using supernate dilutions of 1:100 and 1:1000. After incubating overnight at 37°C, bacterial colonies were counted and levels of killing calculated.

Cloning of antibody variable regions:

[0174] RNA extraction from each hybridoma was performed on ~6x10⁶ cells using the RNeasy kit from Qiagen. 1 μ g of total RNA was reverse transcribed into cDNA using a Qiagen Omniscript kit. 1 μ l of cDNA product was used as a template for the PCR reactions. Each reaction consisted of 50 μ l of Invitrogen Hi fi mix, 100pmoles of each nucleotide primer and 1 μ l of cDNA template. ~30 PCR cycles were performed with the following protocol: 94°C for 30 sec, cycle: 94°C for 30 sec, 65°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min, final extension 72°C for 5 min. PCR products were sequenced and searched using the Ig BLAST program against known germline sequences available on the NCBI database.

[0175] Primers used to clone antibody variable regions from the hybridoma cell lines deposited with the ATCC under Accession No. PTA-5931, PTA-5932 and PTA-5933 on April 21, 2004, are as follows: (5'-3' with restriction sites underlined and starting ATGs in bold):

F598 light chain**[0176]**

lambda constant: GACCGAGGGGGCAGCCTTGGGCTGACCTAGG (SEQ ID NO: 49)

Hu lambda sig 5: AGATCTCTCACCATGGC**ATGG**ATCCCTCTCTTC (SEQ ID NO: 50)

F598 heavy chain

[0177]

5 Heavy chain constant: TGGGCCCTTGGTGCTAGCTGAGGAGAC (SEQ ID NO: 51)
VH7LDRHU: GTCGAC**ATG**AAACATCTGTGGTTCTTC (SEQ ID NO: 52)

F628 light chain

10 [0178]

lambda constant: GACCGAGGGGGCAGCCTTGGGCTGACCTAGG (SEQ ID NO: 49)
Hu lambda sig 1: AGATCTCTCACC**ATG**CCRGCTTCCCTCTCCTC (SEQ ID NO: 53)

15 F628 heavy chain

[0179]

20 Heavy chain constant: TGGGCCCTTGGTGCTAGCTGAGGAGAC (SEQ ID NO: 51)
VH7LDRHU: GTCGAC**ATG**AAACATCTGTGGTTCTTC (SEQ ID NO: 52)

F630 light chain

25 [0180]

lambda constant: GACCGAGGGGGCAGCCTTGGGCTGACCTAGG (SEQ ID NO: 49)
Hu lambda sig 5 : AGATCTCTCACC**ATG**GCATGGATCCCTCTCTTC (SEQ ID NO: 50)

F630 heavy chain

30 [0181]

Heavy chain constant: TGGGCCCTTGGTGCTAGCTGAGGAGAC (SEQ ID NO: 51)
VH1LDRHU: GTCGAC**ATG**ACTGGACCTGGA (SEQ ID NO: 54)

In vivo bacterial challenge assays:

40 [0182] Mice were intravenously (IV) administered MAb F598 which binds to both PNAG and dPNAG, or a control, non-PNAG/dPNAG binding human IgG1 MAb to *P. aeruginosa* alginate or MEP (designated MAb F429) to induce passive immunity. Twenty-four hours later, mice were challenged with *S. aureus* (5×10^7 CFU/mouse) by the same route of administration as the MAb.

[0183] CFU levels in blood 2 hours after infection were used as the measure of efficacy of the MAb administered for inducing passive immunity against *S. aureus*.

45 Results

MAb sequences:

50 [0184] The amino acid and nucleotide sequences for the variable regions and CDR of the MAbs F598, F628 and F630 are shown below. CDR regions are underlined and constant regions are italicized.

Ia. F598 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE AND AMINO ACID SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

[0185]

55
CAG GTG CAG CTG CAG GAG TCG GGC CCA GGA CTG GTG AAG CCT TCG
Q V Q L Q E S G P G L V K P S

GAG ACC CTG TCC CTC ACC TGC ACT GTT TCT GGT GGC TCC ATC AGT
E T L S L T C T V S G G S I S

5 GGT TAC TAC TGG AGT TGG ATC CGG CAG CCC CCA GGG AAG GGA CTG
G Y Y W S W I R Q P P G K G L

10 GAG TGG ATT GGG TAT ATT CAT TAT AGT AGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAC
E W I G Y I H Y S R S T N S N

CCC GCC CTC AAG AGT CGA GTC ACC ATA TCA TCA GAC ACG TCC AAG
P A L K S R V T I S S D T S K

15 AAC CAG CTC TCC CTG AGA CTG AGC TCA GTG ACC GCT GCG GAC ACG
N Q L S L R L S S V T A A D T

20 GCC GTG TAT TAC TGT GCG AGA GAT ACC TAT TAC TAT GAT AGT GGT
A V Y Y C A R D T Y Y Y D S G

GAT TAT GAG GAT GCT TTT GAT ATT TGG GGC CAA GGG ACA ATG GTC
D Y E D A F D I W G Q G T M V

25 ACC GTC TCC TCA (SEQ ID NO: 25)
T V S S (SEQ ID NO: 1)

Ib. F598 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID SEQUENCE

30 [0186]

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSSETLSLTCTVSGGSIS**GYYSWIRQPPGKGLEWIGYIHYSRSTNSNPA**
LKSRVTISSDTSKNQLSLRLSSVTAADTAVYYCARDTYYYDSGDYEDAFDIWGQGTMTVSS
 35 (SEQ ID NO: 1)

40 QVQLQESGPGLVKPSSETLSLTCTVSGGSIS**GYYSWIRQPPGKGLEWIGYIHYSRSTNSNPA**
LKSRVTISSDTSKNQLSLRLSSVTAADTAVYYCARDTYYYDSGDYEDAFDIWGQGTMTVSS
 AS (SEQ ID NO: 55)

45 Ic. F598 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE

[0187]

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EP 2 455 400 B1

CAG GTG CAG CTG CAG GAG TCG GGC CCA GGA CTG GTG AAG CCT TCG
 GAG ACC CTG TCC CTC ACC TGC ACT GTT TCT GGT GGC TCC ATC AGT
 5 GGT TAC TAC TGG AGT TGG ATC CGG CAG CCC CCA GGG AAG GGA CTG
 GAG TGG ATT GGG TAT ATT CAT TAT AGT AGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAC
 CCC GCC CTC AAG AGT CGA GTC ACC ATA TCA TCA GAC ACG TCC AAG
 10 AAC CAG CTC TCC CTG AGA CTG AGC TCA GTG ACC GCT GCG GAC ACG
 GCC GTG TAT TAC TGT GCG AGA GAT ACC TAT TAC TAT GAT AGT GGT

 GAT TAT GAG GAT GCT TTT GAT ATT TGG GGC CAA GGG ACA ATG GTC
 15 ACC GTC TCC TCA
 (SEQ ID NO: 25)

 CAG GTG CAG CTG CAG GAG TCG GGC CCA GGA CTG GTG AAG CCT TCG
 GAG ACC CTG TCC CTC ACC TGC ACT GTT TCT GGT GGC TCC ATC AGT
 GGT TAC TAC TGG AGT TGG ATC CGG CAG CCC CCA GGG AAG GGA CTG
 20 GAG TGG ATT GGG TAT ATT CAT TAT AGT AGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAC
 CCC GCC CTC AAG AGT CGA GTC ACC ATA TCA TCA GAC ACG TCC AAG
 AAC CAG CTC TCC CTG AGA CTG AGC TCA GTG ACC GCT GCG GAC ACG
 25 GCC GTG TAT TAC TGT GCG AGA GAT ACC TAT TAC TAT GAT AGT GGT
 GAT TAT GAG GAT GCT TTT GAT ATT TGG GGC CAA GGG ACA ATG GTC
 30 ACC GTC TCC TCA GCT AGC
 (SEQ ID NO: 56)
 35

Ila. F598 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID AND NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

[0188]

40

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EP 2 455 400 B1

CAG CTT GTG CTG ACT CAG TCG CCC TCT GCC TCT GCC TCC CTG GGA
 Q L V L T Q S P S A S A S L G
 5 GCC TCG GTC AAG CTC ACC TGC ACT CTG AGC AGT GGC CAC AGC AAC
 A S V K L T C T L S S G H S N
 TAC GCC ATC GCT TGG CAT CAG CAG CAG CCA GGG AAG GGC CCT CGC
 10 Y A I A W H Q Q Q P G K G P R
 TAC TTG ATG AAG GTT AAC AGA GAT GGC AGC CAC ATC AGG GGG GAC
 Y L M K V N R D G S H I R G D
 15 GGG ATC CCT GAT CGC TTC TCA GGC TCC ACC TCT GGG GCT GAG CGT
 G I P D R F S G S T S G A E R
 TAC CTC ACC ATC TCC AGT CTC CAG TCT GAA GAT GAG GCT GAC TAT
 20 Y L T I S S L Q S E D E A D Y
 TAC TGT CAG ACC TGG GGC GCT GGC ATT CGA GTG TTC GGC GGA GGG
 Y C Q T W G A G I R V F G G G
 25 ACC AAG CTG ACC GTC CTA GGT (SEQ ID NO: 26)
 T K L T V L G (SEQ ID NO: 2)

IIb. F598 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID SEQUENCE

30 [0189]
 QLVLTQSPSASASLGASVKLTCTTLSSGHSNYAIAWHQQQPGKGPRYLMKVNRDGSHIRGDGI
 35 PDRFSGSTSGAERYLTISLQSEDEA DYVCQTWGAGIRVFGGGTKLTVLG
 (SEQ ID NO: 2)
 40 QLVLTQSPSASASLGASVKLTCTTLSSGHSNYAIAWHQQQPGKGPRYLMKVNRDGSHIRGDGI
 PDRFSGSTSGAERYLTISLQSEDEA DYVCQTWGAGIRVFGGGTKLTVLGQPKAAPSV
 45 (SEQ ID NO: 57)

IIc. F598 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE

50 [0190]

55

EP 2 455 400 B1

CAG CTT GTG CTG ACT CAG TCG CCC TCT GCC TCT GCC TCC CTG GGA
GCC TCG GTC AAG CTC ACC TGC ACT CTG AGC AGT GGC CAC AGC AAC
5 TAC GCC ATC GCT TGG CAT CAG CAG CAG CCA GGG AAG GGC CCT CGC
TAC TTG ATG AAG GTT AAC AGA GAT GGC AGC CAC ATC AGG GGG GAC
GGG ATC CCT GAT CGC TTC TCA GGC TCC ACC TCT GGG GCT GAG CGT
10 TAC CTC ACC ATC TCC AGT CTC CAG TCT GAA GAT GAG GCT GAC TAT
TAC TGT CAG ACC TGG GGC GCT GGC ATT CGA GTG TTC GGC GGA GGG
ACC AAG CTG ACC GTC CTA GGT

(SEQ ID NO: 26)

IIIa. F628 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID AND NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

[0191]

CAG GTG CAG CTG CAG GAG TCG GGC CCA GGA CTG GTG AAG CCT TCG
Q V Q L Q E S G P G L V K P S
25 GAG ACC CTG TCC CTC ACG TGC ACT GTC TCT GGT GGC TCC ATC AGT
E T L S L T C T V S G G S I S
AAT TAC TAC TGG AGT TGG ATC CGG CAG TCC CCA GGG AGG GGA CTG
30 N Y Y W S W I R Q S P G R G L
GAG TGG ATT GGG TAT ATC CAT TAT AGT GGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAT
E W I G Y I H Y S G S T N S N
35 CCA TCC CTC AAG AGT CGA GTC ACC ATA TCA GTT GAC ACG TCC AAG
P S L K S R V T I S V D T S K
AAC CAG GTC TCC CTG AAG CTG GGC TCT GTG ACC GCT GCG GAC ACG
40 N Q V S L K L G S V T A A D T
GCC ATA TAT TAC TGT GCG AGA GAT ACT TAC TAT GAA AGT AGT GGT
45 A I Y Y C A R D T Y Y E S S G
CAT TGG TTC GAC GGT TTG GAC GTC TGG GGC CAA GGG ACC TCG GTC
H W F D G L D V W G Q G T S V

IIIb. F628 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID SEQUENCE

[0192]

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSSETLSLTCTVSGGSISNYYSWIRQSPGRGLEWIGYIHYSGSTNSNPS
LKSRVTISVDTSKNQVSLKLGSVTAADTAIYYCARDDTYYESSGHWFDGLDVWGQGTSVTVSS
 (SEQ ID NO: 3)

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSSETLSLTCTVSGGSISNYYSWIRQSPGRGLEWIGYIHYSGSTNSNPS
LKSRVTISVDTSKNQVSLKLGSVTAADTAIYYCARDDTYYESSGHWFDGLDVWGQGTSVTVSS
 ASTKGP (SEQ ID NO: 58)

IIIc. F628 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE

[0193]

CAG GTG CAG CTG CAG GAG TCG GGC CCA GGA CTG GTG AAG CCT TCG
 GAG ACC CTG TCC CTC ACG TGC ACT GTC TCT GGT GGC TCC ATC AGT
 AAT TAC TAC TGG AGT TGG ATC CGG CAG TCC CCA GGG AGG GGA CTG
 GAG TGG ATT GGG TAT ATC CAT TAT AGT GGG AGC ACC AAC TCC AAT
 CCA TCC CTC AAG AGT CGA GTC ACC ATA TCA GTT GAC ACG TCC AAG
 AAC CAG GTC TCC CTG AAG CTG GGC TCT GTG ACC GCT GCG GAC ACG
 GCC ATA TAT TAC TGT GCG AGA GAT ACT TAC TAT GAA AGT AGT GGT
 CAT TGG TTC GAC GGT TTG GAC GTC TGG GGC CAA GGG ACC TCG GTC
 ACC GTC TCC TCA
 (SEQ ID NO: 27)

CAG GTG CAG CTG CAG GAG TCG GGC CCA GGA CTG GTG AAG CCT TCG
 GAG ACC CTG TCC CTC ACG TGC ACT GTC TCT GGT GGC TCC ATC AGT
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 CAT TGG TTC GAC GGT TTG GAC GTC TGG GGC CAA GGG ACC TCG GTC
 ACC GTC TCC TCA GCT AGC ACC
 (SEQ ID NO: 59)

IVa. F628 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID AND NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

[0194]

EP 2 455 400 B1

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IVb. F628 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID SEQUENCE

30 [0195]
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 35 TDRFSGSSSGAERYLTISSLQSEDEA DYCYCQTWGPGIRVFGGGTKLTVL
 (SEQ ID NO: 4)

IVc. F628 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE

40 [0196]
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 55 ACC AAG CTG ACC GTC CTA (SEQ ID NO: 28)

Va. F630 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID AND NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

[0197]

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 T N T A Y M E L R S L G S D D
 25 ACG GCC GTC TTT TAC TGT GCG AGA GAT TAC TAT GAG ACT AGT GGT
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 30 Y A Y D D F A I W G Q G T L V
 ACC GTC TCC TCA (SEQ ID NO: 29)
 T V S S (SEQ ID NO: 5)

35

Vb. F630 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID SEQUENCE

[0198]

40 QVQLVQSGAEMKRPGASVKVSKASGYTFTNFGISWVRQAPGQGLEWIGWVSTYNGRTNYAQ
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 (SEQ ID NO: 5)

45

Vc. F630 HEAVY CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE

[0199]

50

55

EP 2 455 400 B1

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GAG TGG ATA GGA TGG GTC AGC ACT TAC AAT GGT CGC ACA AAT TAT
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15 ACG AAC ACA GCG TAC ATG GAA CTG AGG AGC CTG GGA TCT GAC GAC
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ACC GTC TCC TCA

Vla. F630 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION AMINO ACID AND NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE ALIGNMENT

[0200]

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Y C Q T W G P G I R V F G G G
45 ACC AAG CTG ACC GTC CTA GGT (SEQ ID NO: 30)
T K L T V L G (SEQ ID NO: 6)

Vlb. F630 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE

[0201]

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55 PDRFSGSSSSGAERYLSISSLQSEDESYYCQTWGPGRVFGGGTKLTVLG

(SEQ ID NO: 6)

QLVLTQSPSASASLGASVKLTCTTLSSGHSTYAIAAWHQOQPLRGPRFLMKVNSDGSHTKGDGI
 PDRFSGSSSGAERYLSISSLQSEDES DYICQTWGPGLRVFGGGTKLTVLGQPKAAPSV

(SEQ ID NO: 60)

Vlc. F630 LIGHT CHAIN VARIABLE REGION NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE**[0202]**

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 TTC TTG ATG AAA GTC AAC AGT GAT GGC AGC CAC ACC AAG GGG GAC
 GGG ATC CCT GAT CGC TTC TCA GGC TCC AGT TCT GGG GCT GAG CGC
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 TAC TGT CAG ACG TGG GGC CCT GGC ATT CGA GTG TTC GGC GGA GGG
 ACC AAG CTG ACC GTC CTA GGT (SEQ ID NO: 30)

CAG CTT GTG CTG ACT CAA TCG CCC TCT GCC TCT GCT TCC CTG GGA
 GCC TCG GTC AAG CTC ACC TGC ACT CTG AGC AGT GGG CAC AGC ACC
 TAC GCC ATC GCG TGG CAT CAG CAG CAG CCA CTG AGG GGT CCT CGT
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 GGG ATC CCT GAT CGC TTC TCA GGC TCC AGT TCT GGG GCT GAG CGC
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 ACC AAG CTG ACC GTC CTA GGT CAG CCC AAG GCT GCC CCA TCG GTC
 ACC TGT TCC CGC CTC (SEQ ID NO: 61)

Characterization of IgG2 MAbs:

[0203] The hybridomas were named from their corresponding fusion numbers: F598, F628, and F630. The antibodies produced from these hybridomas were all IgG2 and lambda types. After purification of the antibodies using protein G columns, ELISAs were used to determine differences in epitope specificities of the MAbs. Chemical modification of native PNAG was performed in order to remove certain substituents. Strong base treatment (5M NaOH) results in removal of most of the N-acetyl groups. As seen in FIG. 1 all of the MAbs bind well to the native form of PNAG, although with different binding curves. When PNAG is treated with 5M NaOH to yield dPNAG, F598 MAb binds with the greatest activity (FIG. 2). This result suggests that F598 has specificity for the backbone epitopes of PNAG and does not require N- and O-acetylated groups to bind to the PNAG polymer. MAbs F630 and F628 bind poorly to dPNAG suggesting that their specificities require the acetates found in the native form of PNAG.

[0204] Competition ELISAs were used to determine the relative binding activities of the MAbs. FIG. 3 shows that the relative binding activity of the MAbs are: F598>F628>F630.

Creation and characterization of IgG1 switched MABs:

[0205] Human IgG1 isotype antibodies can fix complement onto the surface of an antigen better than antibodies of the IgG2 isotype. Therefore, cloning of the MAb variable regions and production of the IgG1 isotype was performed. Primers directed at the IgG2 constant region and primers specific for the 5' end of the variable regions identified in the original hybridomas (see listing of primers herein under "Cloning of antibody variable regions") were used to obtain PCR products from cDNA preparations made from mRNA isolated from the original IgG2 hybridoma cell lines. PCR products were sequenced and analyzed to determine the germline genes that most likely gave rise to each antibody. As shown in Table 1, there are common germline genes that are used by the hybridomas in making antibodies directed to PNAG and/or dPNAG. As shown, MABs F598, F628 and F630 use the same light chain germline genes and heavy chain D regions. The only difference is the V gene used to produce the heavy chain of MAB F630 and the J gene used to produce the heavy chain of MAB F628; the remainder of the germline genes are identical for the MABs.

Table 1.

Hybridoma H or L chain	Germline Genes		
F598L	IGLV4-69 or V5-6		IGLJ3 or IGLJ2
F598H	IGHV4-59	IGHD3-22	IGHJ3
F628L	IGLV4-69 or V5-6		IGLJ3 or IGLJ2
F628H	IGHV4-59	IGHD3-22	IGHJ6
F630L	IGLV4-69 or V5-6		IGLJ3 or IGLJ2
F630H	IGHV1-18	IGHD3-22	IGHJ3

[0206] The DNA encoding the entire variable regions encompassing V, J and D segments for the heavy chain and V and J segments for the light chain of each of the MABs (F598, F628 and F630) was cloned into the TCAE6 vector, which contains the kappa light chain and IgG1 heavy chain human constant regions. The initial constructs maintained the original pairing of the heavy and light chain genes obtained from the original hybridomas. Plasmid DNA containing each of the constructs were transfected into CHO cells and the resulting IgG1 MABs were purified and characterized. As seen in FIGs. 4 and 5, all of the IgG1 MABs have identical binding curves to PNAG when compared to the original IgG2 MABs, however the IgG1 constructs of MABs F628 and F630 have lost some of their ability to bind to dPNAG (e.g., compare with FIGs. 1 and 2).

[0207] To test whether the IgG1 MABs have more functional complement activating activity than the IgG2 parental MABs, complement deposition assays were performed. The complement deposition assay is essentially an ELISA assay that measures the deposition of complement protein C3 when human serum is added to the reaction mixture. As shown in FIG. 6, all of the IgG1 MABs have better complement fixing activity than the parental IgG2 MABs. The extent of the increase in complement fixation depends on the MAB. For MAB F598, which has the highest binding activity to PNAG and dPNAG, there is only a slight increase in activity of the IgG1 over the IgG2 isotype. For MABs F628 and F630, the IgG1 MABs have at least double the complement deposition activity than the parental IgG2 MABs.

Opsonophagocytic activity:

[0208] The opsonophagocytic activity of monoclonal antibodies F598, F628 and F630 in both the IgG1 and IgG2 forms (6 µg of MAB) was tested against *S. aureus* strain Mn8. Monoclonal antibody F598 showed the highest level of reduction (i.e., killing) in CFU when the IgG1 form was used (FIG. 7).

Passive protection against infection:

[0209] Administration of the MAB F598 that binds to both PNAG and dPNAG to mice 24 hours prior to challenge with *S. aureus* strain Mn8 resulted in a 68% reduction 2 hours following infection in the number of CFU/ml blood as compared to mice receiving a MAB to an irrelevant antigen, *P. aeruginosa* alginate (significance of $P = 0.002$) (FIG. 8A). FIG. 8B shows the CFU of *S. aureus* per ml of blood for each individual animal given either the control MAB or the MAB F598g1. Administration of 800 µg MAB F598 per FVB mouse 4 hours prior to intraperitoneal (IP) challenge with 5×10^8 CFU *S. aureus* (Mn8 strain) resulted in increased survival compared to mice administered a control MAB (F429 specific to *P. aeruginosa*). FIG. 8C shows the results of these experiments. At five days after bacterial challenge, all mice that received F598 and only about 20% of mice receiving control MAB were alive (8 mice per group).

E. coli urinary tract infection isolates:

[0210] Eighteen *E. coli* clinical urinary tract infection (UTI) isolates were isolated and tested for the presence of the *pga* locus by PCR and PNAG expression by immunoblot using antisera raised to *S. aureus* PNAG. The clinical isolates were grown in culture and either DNA was extracted by standard techniques for use in PCR or cells were subjected to EDTA extraction (boiling for 5 minutes) once cells were in stationary phase. Seventeen of the eighteen isolates carried *pga* genes as determined by PCR. Based on the immunoblot results, of these seventeen, about one third were characterized as expressing relatively high levels of PNAG, about one third were characterized as expressing relatively intermediate (or moderate) levels of PNAG and the remaining one third were characterized as expressing relatively low levels of PNAG. In addition, over-expression of the *pga* locus resulted in enhanced production of PNAG. FIG. 9 shows the results of this immunoblot. Strain "H" expresses undetectable levels of PNAG and does not have a *pga* locus. The slot at the upper right hand corner represents the *pga* over-expressing strain of *E. coli*.

[0211] FIG. 10 shows the level of opsonic killing of the afore-mentioned *E. coli* clinical UTI isolates using a polyclonal antiserum raised against *S. aureus* dPNAG. BW represents a wild type *E. coli* strain, *pga*⁻ represents an *E. coli* strain with the *pga* locus deleted, and *pga*⁺⁺ represents a *pga* over-expressing strain of *E. coli*. The level of killing roughly correlates with the level of PNAG expression by the *E. coli* isolate.

[0212] FIGs. 11A and 11B show the level of opsonic killing of a high PNAG expressing *E. coli* strain (strain U) and an intermediate PNAG expressing *E. coli* strain (strain P) by polyclonal antiserum raised against dPNAG and PNAG. At all antiserum dilutions tested, the anti-dPNAG was more effective at killing either strain than the anti-PNAG antiserum.

[0213] FIG. 12 shows the opsonophagocytic activity of MAb F598 against various *Staphylococcal* strains and an *E. coli* strain by MAb F598, F628 and F630 (6 µg/ml of MAb per assay).

ica locus mutation:

[0214] FIGs. 13 and 14 shows the results of killing by MAbs F598 and F628 of *S. aureus* strains having mutant *ica* loci. *S. aureus* strain 10833 was deleted for the *ica* locus (10833Δ*ica*) then transformed with a plasmid carrying wild-type *ica* isolated from *S. aureus* Mn8m (pMuc, PNAG-over-producer) or with pMuc with the *icaB* gene deleted (pMucΔ*icaB*), as shown in FIG. 13. *S. aureus* strain 10833 (wild type) and 10833 (p*icaB*) are shown in FIG. 14. Strain 10833 (p*icaB*) over-expresses the *icaB* gene from a plasmid using the constitutive promoter from the *ica* locus of *S. aureus* Mn8m (PNAG-over-producer). The *icaB* gene is the enzyme believed responsible for deacetylating PNAG. Deletion of the *icaB* gene affects killing by MAb F598 but not MAb F628. In the absence of the *icaB* gene, killing by MAb F598 is reduced (FIG. 13). Over-expression of the *icaB* gene results in enhanced killing by MAb F598 with little or no effect on MAb 628 killing.

Conclusions

[0215] ELISAs using chemically modified PNAG highlighted differences in the specificity of three fully human MAbs directed at the native form of PNAG. MAb F598 was found to recognize PNAG and dPNAG and so is specific for the backbone of the molecule. MAbs F628 and F630 apparently recognize acetate-specific epitopes. Competition ELISAs reveal that the relative binding activities of the MAbs ranks F598 with the highest binding activity followed by F628 and then F630. Cloning of the variable regions reveals that there is gene restriction usage for producing antibodies to PNAG and/or dPNAG. Changing the constant region of the MAbs from gamma 2 to gamma 1 resulted in identical binding to PNAG, but reduced the ability of 2 of the 3 MAbs to bind to dPNAG. Finally changing the constant region to gamma 1 resulted in an increased ability of the MAbs to fix complement, however this increase was most dramatic for MAbs F628 and F630 which have lower binding activity. Evaluation of the protective efficacy of MAb F598g1 showed administration this product to mice 24 hours before IV challenge with live *S. aureus* strain Mn8 resulted in a 68% reduction in the levels of *Staphylococci* in the blood 2 hours after infection. Administration of MAb F598 to mice 4 hours before IP challenge with live *S. aureus* strain Mn8 resulted in increased survival as compared to control MAb treated mice.

SEQUENCE LISTING

[0216]

<110> The Brigham and Women's Hospital, Inc. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

<120> POLY-N-ACETYL GLUCOSAMINE (PNAG/dPNAG)-BINDING PEPTIDES AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

EP 2 455 400 B1

<130> P9384EP00

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<170> PatentIn version 3.3

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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EP 2 455 400 B1

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Claims

1. A vector comprising:

an isolated nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequences corresponding respectively to the heavy chain CDR 1-3 SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, and SEQ ID NO: 33; and
 an isolated nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequences corresponding respectively to the light chain CDR 1-3 of SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 and SEQ ID NO: 36,
 wherein the vector encodes an anti-*Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG-binding antibody or antibody fragment.

2. The vector of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 and SEQ ID NO: 33 has a heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25 and the isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 and SEQ ID NO: 36 has a light chain variable region nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

3. The vector of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 and SEQ ID NO: 33 encode a heavy chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG-binding antibody (PNAG/dPNAG-binding antibody) and the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 and SEQ ID NO: 36 encode a light chain variable region of PNAG/dPNAG-binding antibody, the heavy chain variable region comprising a CDR1 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR2 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, and a CDR3 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, and the light chain variable region comprising a CDR1 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, a CDR2 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11, and a CDR3 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

4. The vector of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the vector is an expression vector.

5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes an anti-*Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG-binding antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof and is derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931.

6. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes

- (a) a heavy chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG antibody (PNAG/dPNAG-binding antibody) and is derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931 and
- (b) a light chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG antibody (PNAG/dPNAG-binding antibody) and is derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931.

7. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 25. corresponding to a heavy chain variable region.

8. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 26 corresponding to a light chain variable region.

9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes

- (a) a heavy chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine /dPNAG antibody and has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25, and
- (b) a light chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine /dPNAG antibody and has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

10. An isolated cell producing an anti-*Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG monoclonal antibody (PNAG/dPNAG monoclonal antibody) and having ATCC Accession No. PTA-5931.

11. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

a heavy chain region comprising heavy chain CDR1, heavy chain CDR2 and heavy chain CDR3 sequences comprising nucleic acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 and SEQ ID NO:33, respectively; and a light chain region comprising light chain CDR1, light chain CDR2 and light chain CDR3 sequences comprising nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 and SEQ ID NO: 36, respectively, wherein the isolated nucleic acid encodes an anti-*Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG-binding antibody or antibody fragment.

12. A first isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a heavy chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG antibody (PNAG/dPNAG-binding antibody) and is derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931, and
a second isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a light chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG antibody (PNAG/dPNAG-binding antibody) and is derived from a hybridoma having Accession No. PTA-5931.
13. A first isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a heavy chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG antibody and has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25, and
a second isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a light chain variable region of *Staphylococcal* poly-N-acetyl glucosamine/dPNAG antibody and has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.
14. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that comprises SEQ ID NO: 25 and SEQ ID NO: 26.
15. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 5 to 9 and 11 to 13 operably linked to a promoter.
16. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector of claim 4 or claim 15.

Patentansprüche

1. Vektor, umfassend:

ein isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül mit den Nukleotidsequenzen von SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 und SEQ ID NO: 33, die jeweils der CDR 1-3 der schweren Kette entsprechen, und
ein isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül mit den Nukleotidsequenzen von SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 und SEQ ID NO: 36, die jeweils der CDR 1-3 der leichten Kette entsprechen, wobei der Vektor für einen Anti-Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-bindenden Antikörper oder ein Antikörperfragment kodiert.

2. Der Vektor nach Anspruch 1, wobei das isolierte Nukleinsäuremolekül mit einer Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 und SEQ ID NO: 33 eine Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 25 der variablen Region einer schweren Kette aufweist und das isolierte Nukleinsäuremolekül mit einer Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 und SEQ ID NO: 36 eine Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 26 der variablen Region der leichten Kette aufweist.

3. Der Vektor nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Nukleotidsequenzen von SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 und SEQ ID NO: 33 für eine variable Region einer schweren Kette von Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-bindendem Antikörper kodieren (PNAG/dPNAG-bindender Antikörper) und die Nukleotidsequenzen von SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 und SEQ ID NO: 36 für eine variable Region der leichten Kette des PNAG/dPNAG-bindenden Antikörpers kodieren, wobei die variable Region der schweren Kette eine CDR1 mit einer Aminosäuresequenz von SEQ ID NO: 7, eine CDR2 mit einer Aminosäuresequenz von SEQ ID NO: 8 und eine CDR3 mit einer Aminosäuresequenz von SEQ ID NO: 9 umfasst, und die variable Region der leichten Kette eine CDR1 mit einer Aminosäuresequenz von SEQ ID NO: 10, eine CDR2 mit einer Aminosäuresequenz von SEQ ID NO: 11 und eine CDR3 mit einer Aminosäuresequenz von SEQ ID NO: 12 umfasst.

4. Der Vektor nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, wobei der Vektor ein Expressionsvektor ist.

5. Isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für einen Anti-Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-bindenden Antikörper oder ein Antigen-bindendes Fragment davon kodiert und aus einem Hybridom mit der Hinterlegungsnummer PTA-5931 abgeleitet ist.

6. Isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für

- (a) eine variable Region der schweren Kette eines Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers (PNAG/dPNAG-bindender Antikörper) kodiert und aus einem Hybridom mit der Hinterlegungsnummer PTA-5931 abgeleitet ist und
- (b) eine variable Region der leichten Kette eines Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers

(PNAG/dPNAG-bindender Antikörper) kodiert und aus einem Hybridom mit der Hinterlegungsnummer PTA-5931 abgeleitet ist.

7. Das isolierte Nukleinsäuremolekül nach Anspruch 6 mit einer Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 25, das einer variablen Region einer schweren Kette entspricht.

8. Das isolierte Nukleinsäuremolekül nach Anspruch 6 mit einer Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 26, das einer variablen Region einer leichten Kette entspricht.

9. Isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für

(a) eine variable Region der schweren Kette des Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers mit einer Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 25 und

(b) eine variable Region der leichten Kette des Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers mit einer Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 26 kodiert.

10. Isolierte Zelle, die einen monoklonalen Anti-Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörper (monoklonaler PNAG/dPNAG-Antikörper) mit ATCC-Hinterlegungsnummer PTA-5931 bildet.

11. Isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, umfassend:

eine Region der schweren Kette, umfassend Sequenzen der CDR1 der schweren Kette, CDR2 der schweren Kette und CDR3 der schweren Kette, die jeweils Nukleinsäuresequenzen von SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32 und SEQ ID NO: 33 umfassen; und

eine Region der leichten Kette, umfassend Sequenzen der CDR1 der leichten Kette, CDR2 der leichten Kette und CDR3 der leichten Kette, die jeweils Nukleotidsequenzen von SEQ ID NO: 34, SEQ ID NO: 35 und SEQ ID NO: 36 umfassen,

wobei die isolierte Nukleinsäure für einen Anti-Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin / dPNAG-bindenden Antikörper oder ein Antikörperfragment kodiert.

12. Erstes isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für eine variable Region der schweren Kette eines Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers (PNAG / dPNAG-bindender Antikörper) kodiert und aus einem Hybridom mit der Hinterlegungsnummer PTA-5931 abgeleitet ist, und ein zweites isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für eine variable Region der leichten Kette des Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers (PNAG/dPNAG-bindender Antikörper) kodiert und aus einem Hybridom mit der Hinterlegungsnummer PTA-5931 abgeleitet ist.

13. Erstes isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für eine variable Region der schweren Kette eines Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers kodiert und eine Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 25 aufweist und ein zweites isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das für eine variable Region der leichten Kette des Staphylokokken-Poly-N-Acetylglucosamin/dPNAG-Antikörpers kodiert und eine Nukleotidsequenz von SEQ ID NO: 26 aufweist.

14. Isoliertes Nukleinsäuremolekül, das SEQ ID NO: 25 und SEQ ID NO: 26 umfasst.

15. Expressionsvektor, umfassend das isolierte Nukleinsäuremolekül nach den Ansprüchen 5 bis 9 und 11 bis 13, das operabel an einen Promotor gebunden ist.

16. Wirtszelle, die mit dem Expressionsvektor nach Anspruch 4 oder 15 transformiert oder transfiziert ist.

Revendications

1. Vecteur comprenant :

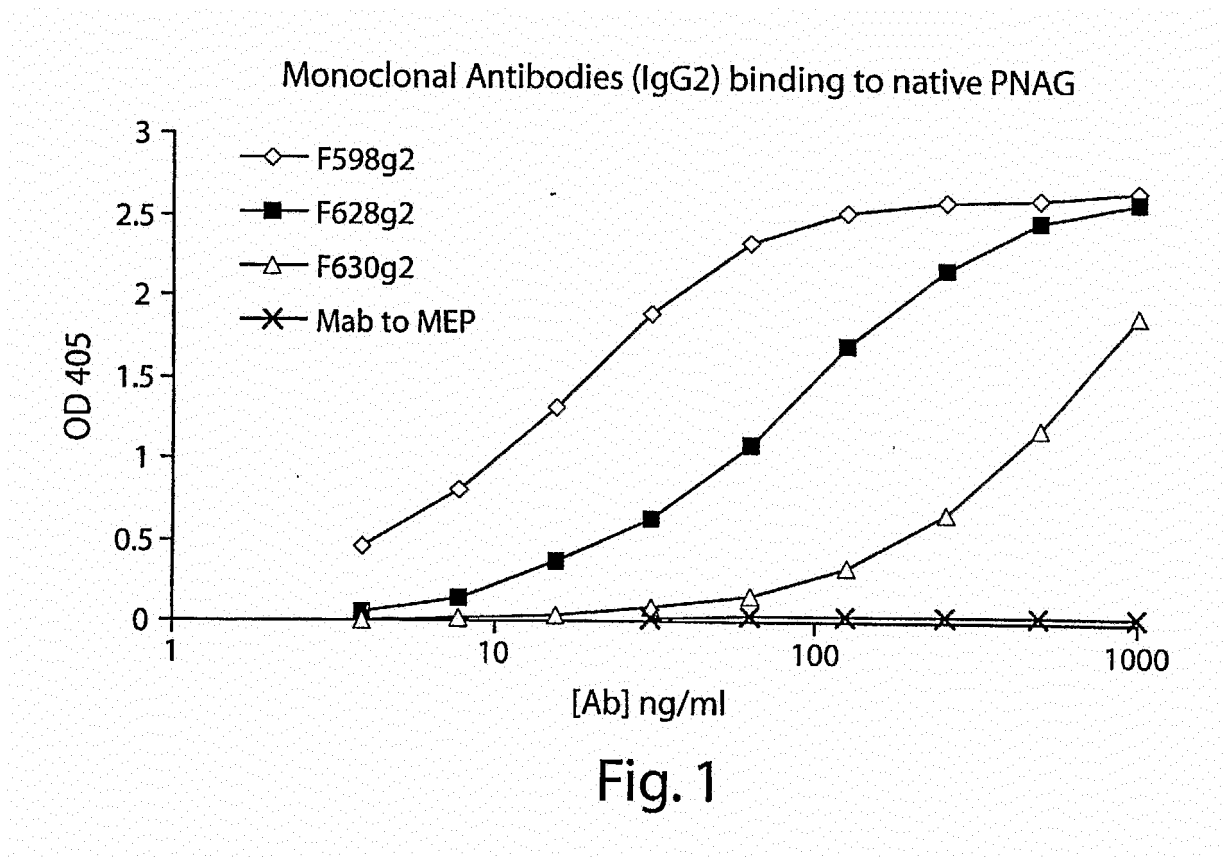
une molécule d'acide nucléique isolée comportant les séquences nucléotidiques correspondant respectivement à la chaîne lourde CDR 1-3 de SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32 et SEQ ID N° 33 ; et

une molécule d'acide nucléique isolée comportant les séquences nucléotidiques correspondant respectivement à la chaîne légère CDR 1-3 de SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36, le vecteur codant pour un

anticorps de liaison à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG anti-staphylocoque ou un fragment d'anticorps.

2. Vecteur selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la molécule d'acide nucléique isolée comportant les séquences nucléotidiques de SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32 et SEQ ID N° 33 a une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 25 de région variable à chaîne lourde et la molécule d'acide nucléique isolée comportant les séquences nucléotidiques de SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36 a une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 26 de région variable à chaîne légère.
3. Vecteur selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les séquences nucléotidiques de SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32 et SEQ ID N° 33 codent pour une région variable à chaîne lourde d'un anticorps de liaison à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique (anticorps de liaison à PNAG/dPNAG) et les séquences nucléotidiques de SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36 codent pour une région variable à chaîne légère d'un anticorps de liaison à PNAG/dPNAG, la région variable à chaîne lourde comprenant une CDR1 comportant une séquence d'acides aminés de SEQ ID N° 7, une CDR2 comportant une séquence d'acides aminés de SEQ ID N° 8 et une CDR3 comportant une séquence d'acides aminés de SEQ ID N° 9, et la région variable à chaîne légère comprenant une CDR1 comportant une séquence d'acides aminés de SEQ ID N° 10, une CDR2 comportant une séquence d'acides aminés de SEQ ID N° 11 et une CDR3 comportant une séquence d'acides aminés de SEQ ID N° 12.
4. Vecteur selon les revendications 1, 2 ou 3, dans lequel le vecteur est un vecteur d'expression.
5. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour un anticorps de liaison à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG anti-staphylocoque ou un fragment de liaison à antigène de celui-ci et est dérivée d'un hybridome comportant l'enregistrement N° PTA-5931.
6. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour
 - (a) une région variable à chaîne lourde d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique (anticorps de liaison à PNAG/dPNAG) et est dérivée d'un hybridome comportant l'enregistrement N° PTA-5931 et
 - (b) une région variable à chaîne légère d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique (anticorps de liaison à PNAG/dPNAG) et est dérivée d'un hybridome comportant l'enregistrement N° PTA-5931.
7. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée selon la revendication 6 comportant une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 25 correspondant à une région variable à chaîne lourde.
8. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée selon la revendication 6 comportant une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 26 correspondant à une région variable à chaîne légère.
9. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour
 - (a) une région variable à chaîne lourde d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique et comporte une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 25, et
 - (b) une région variable à chaîne légère d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique et comporte une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 26.
10. Cellule isolée produisant un anticorps monoclonal à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG anti-staphylocoque (anticorps monoclonal à PNAG/dPNAG) et comportant l'enregistrement ATCC N° PTA-5931.
11. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée comprenant :
 - une région à chaîne lourde comprenant les séquences CDR1 à chaîne lourde, CDR2 à chaîne lourde et CDR3 à chaîne lourde comprenant les séquences d'acides nucléiques de SEQ ID N° 31, SEQ ID N° 32 et SEQ ID N° 33, respectivement ; et
 - une région à chaîne légère comprenant les séquences CDR1 à chaîne légère, CDR2 à chaîne légère et CDR3 à chaîne légère comprenant les séquences d'acides nucléiques de SEQ ID N° 34, SEQ ID N° 35 et SEQ ID N° 36, respectivement,
 - l'acide nucléique isolé codant pour un anticorps de liaison à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG anti-staphylocoque ou un fragment d'anticorps.

12. Première molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour une région variable à chaîne lourde d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique (anticorps de liaison à PNAG/dPNAG) et est dérivée d'un hybridome comportant l'enregistrement N° PTA-5931, et une seconde molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour une région variable à chaîne légère d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique (anticorps de liaison à PNAG/dPNAG) et est dérivée d'un hybridome comportant l'enregistrement N° PTA-5931.
13. Première molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour une région variable à chaîne lourde d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique et comporte une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 25, et une seconde molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui code pour une région variable à chaîne légère d'anticorps à poly-N-acétyl glucosamine/dPNAG staphylococcique et comporte une séquence nucléotidique de SEQ ID N° 26.
14. Molécule d'acide nucléique isolée qui comprend la SEQ ID N° 25 et la SEQ ID N° 26.
15. Vecteur d'expression comprenant la molécule d'acide nucléique isolée selon les revendications 5 à 9 et 11 à 13 reliée de manière fonctionnelle à un promoteur.
16. Cellule hôte transformée ou transfectée avec le vecteur d'expression selon la revendication 4 ou la revendication 15.



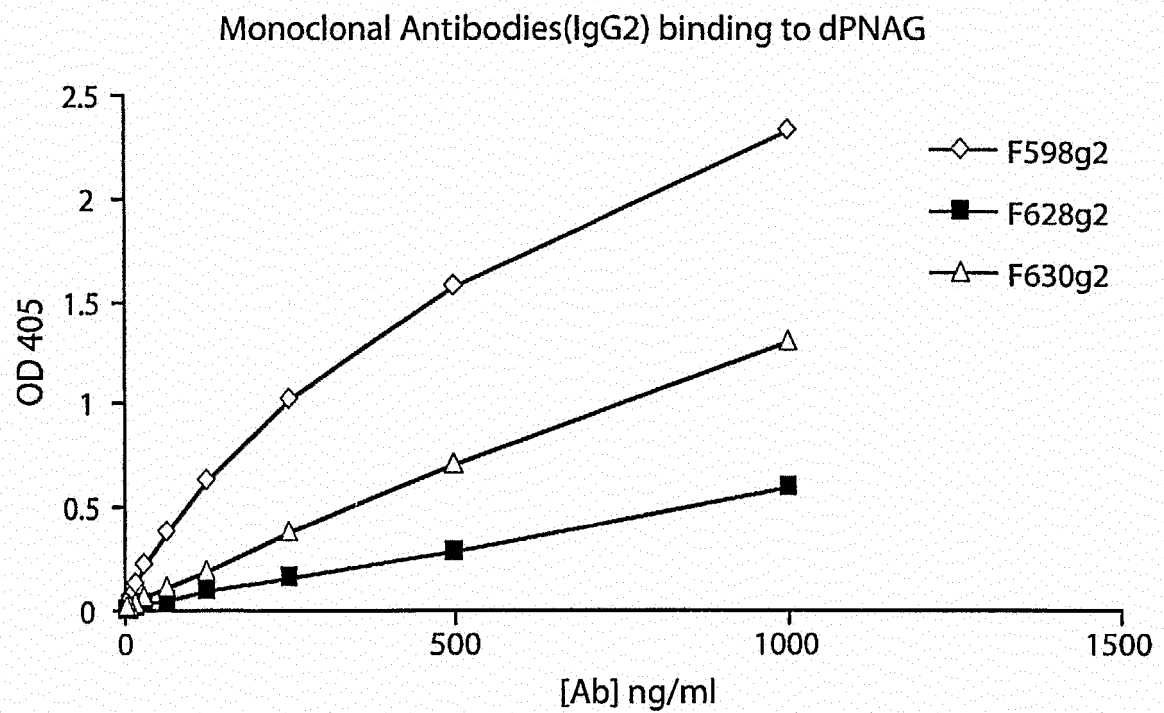


Fig. 2

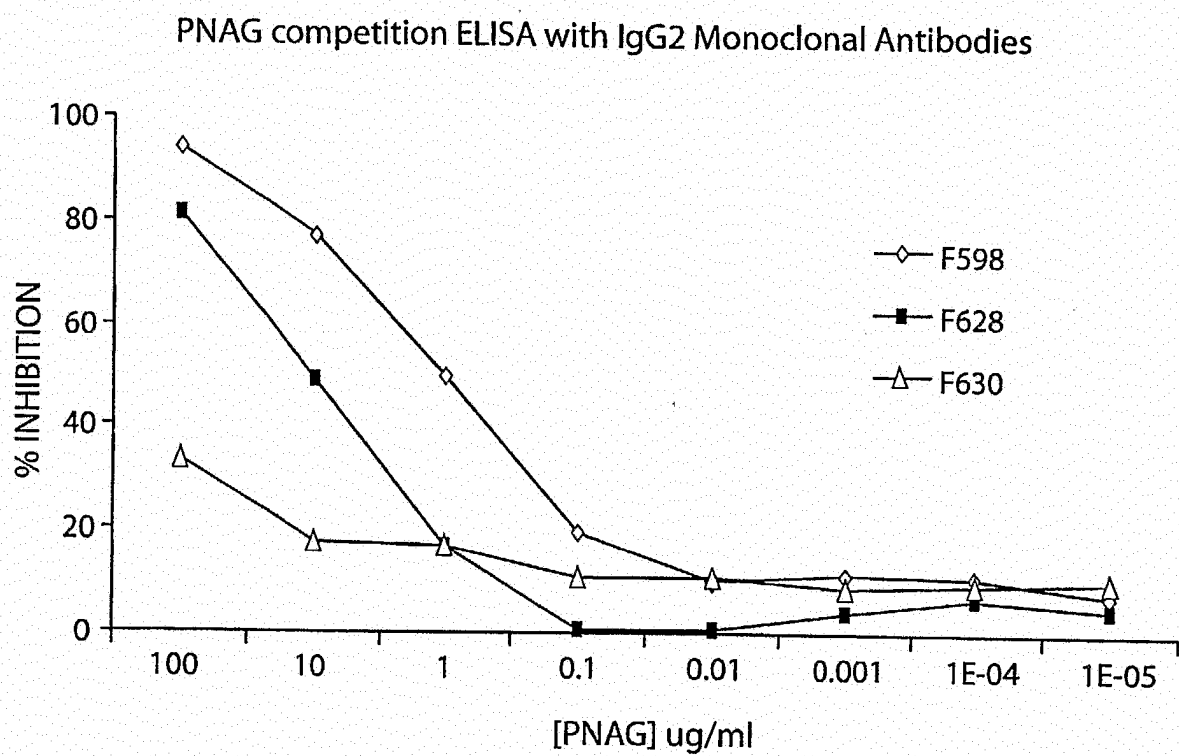


Fig. 3

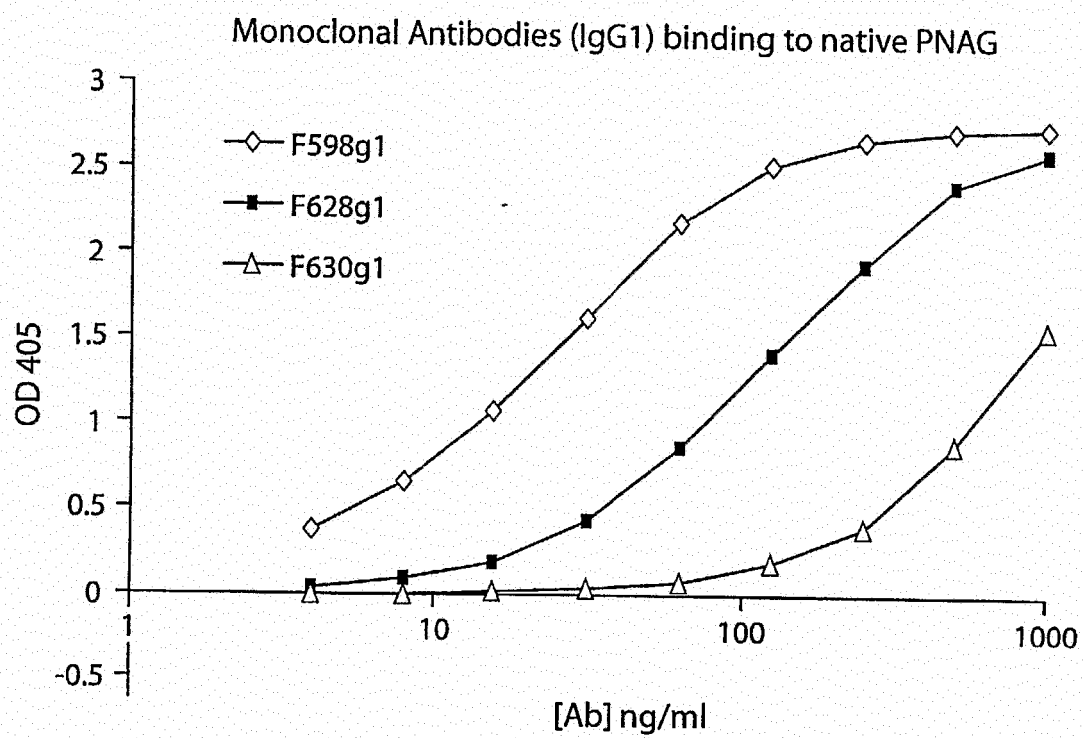
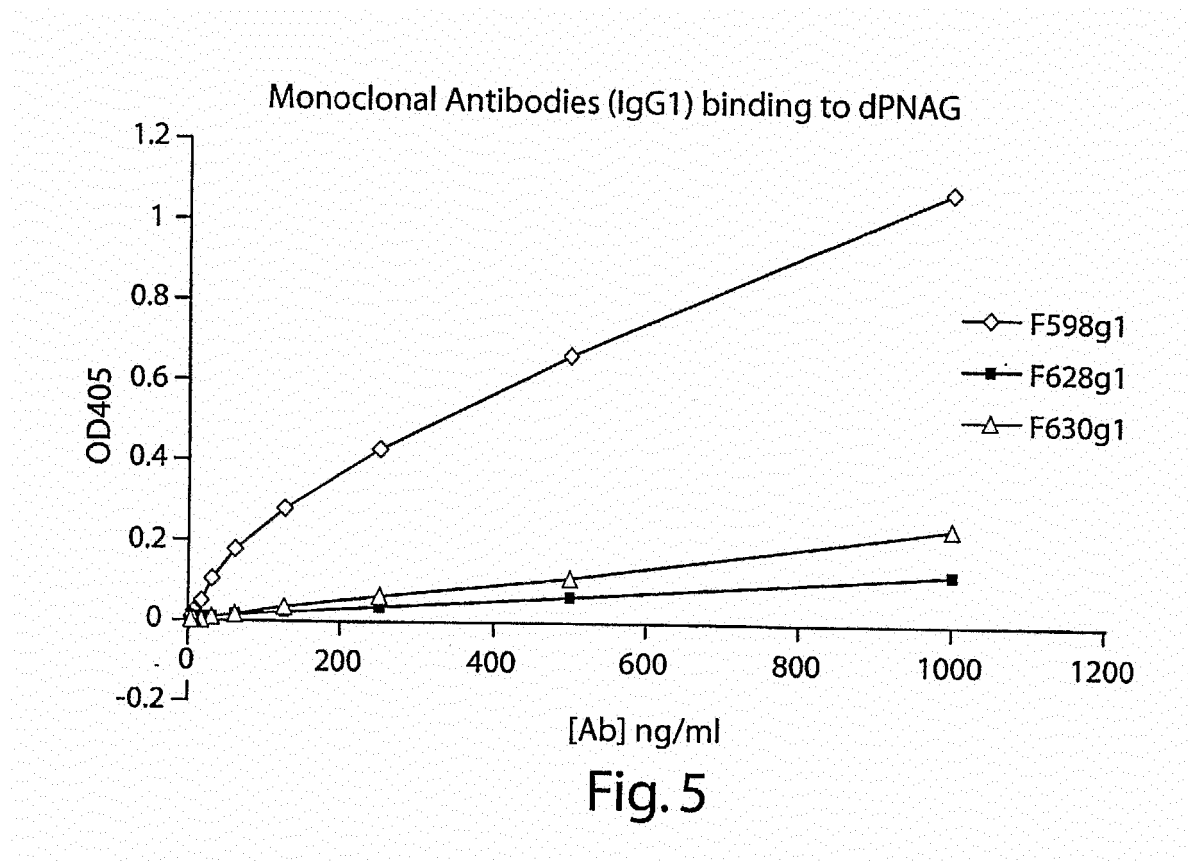


Fig. 4



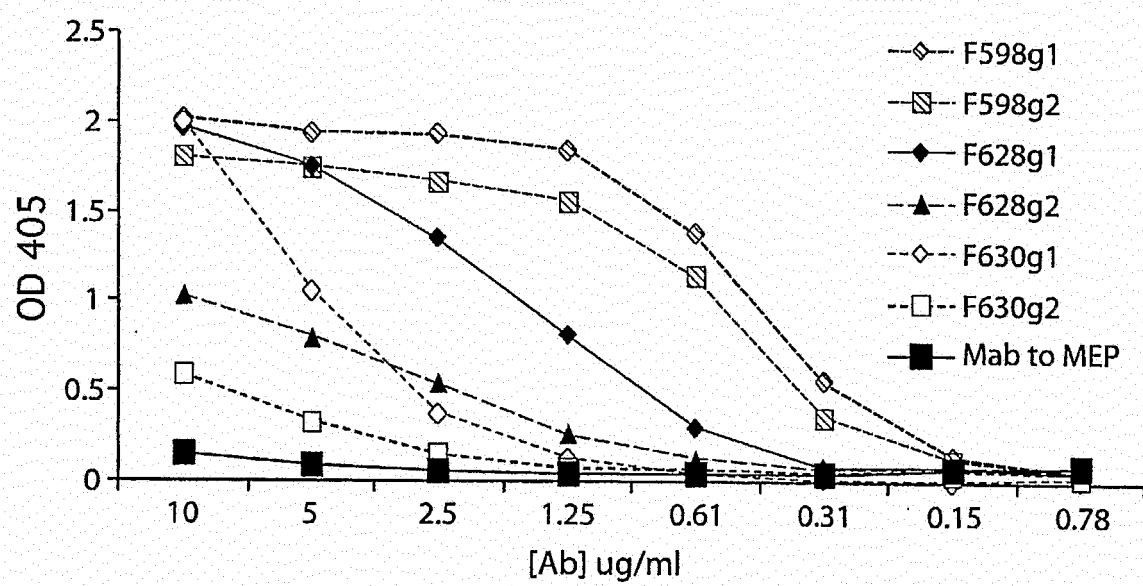


Fig. 6

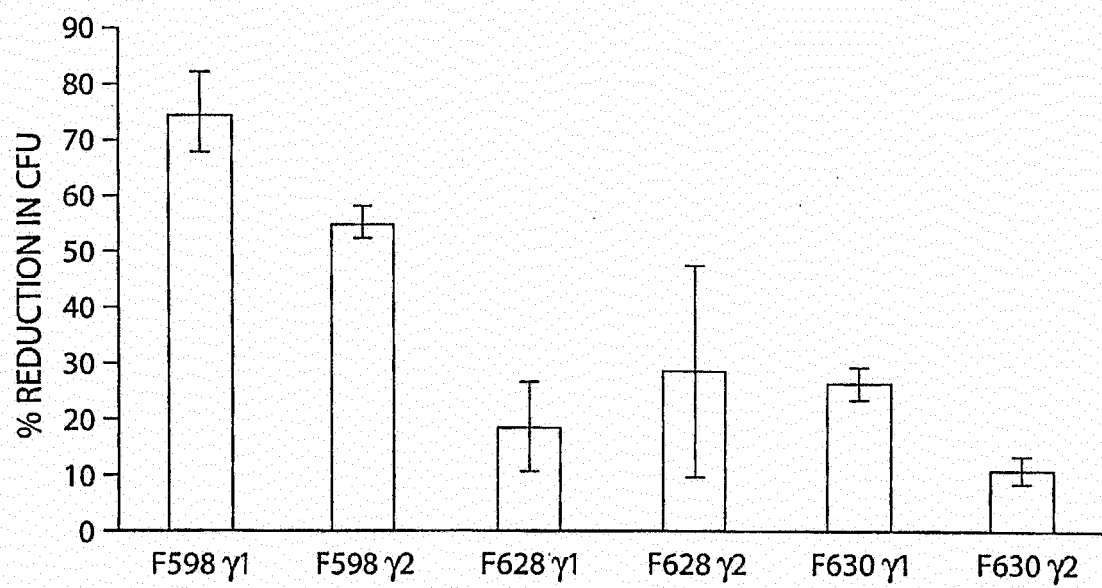


Fig. 7

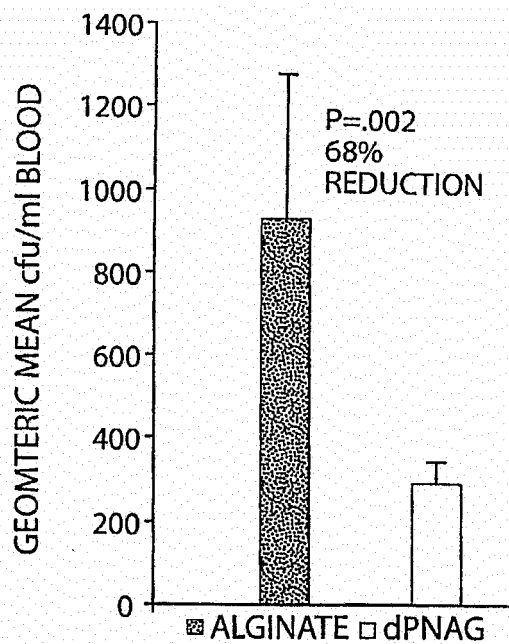


Fig. 8A

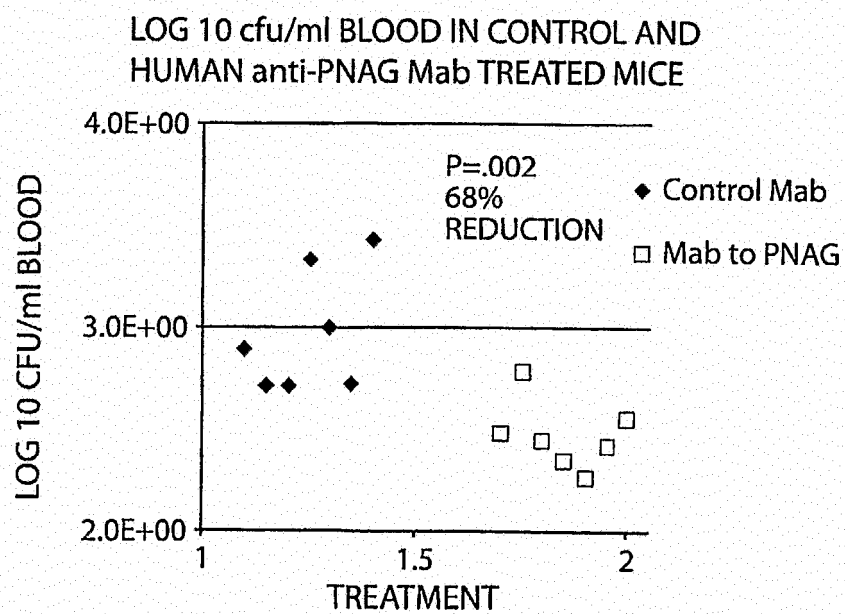


Fig. 8B

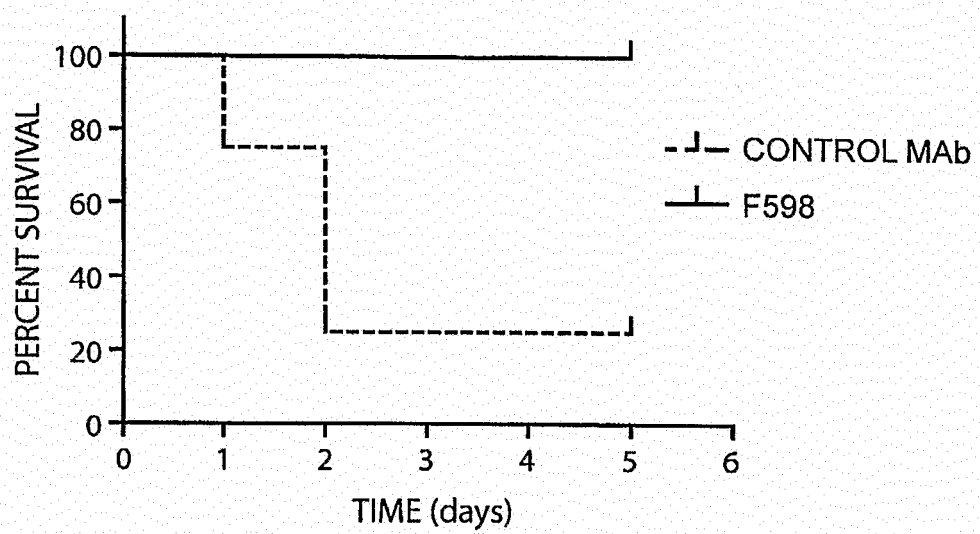


Fig. 8C

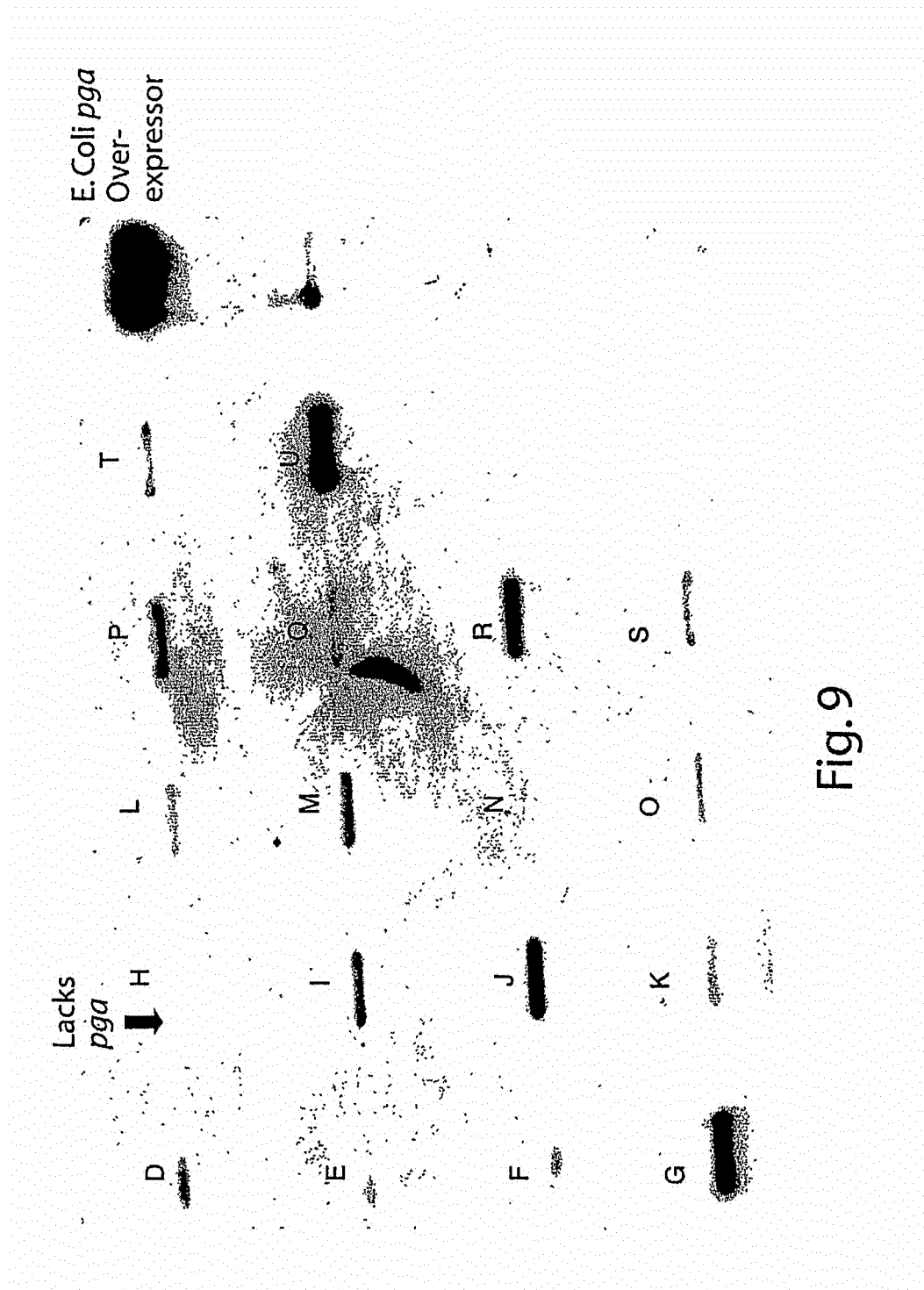


Fig. 9

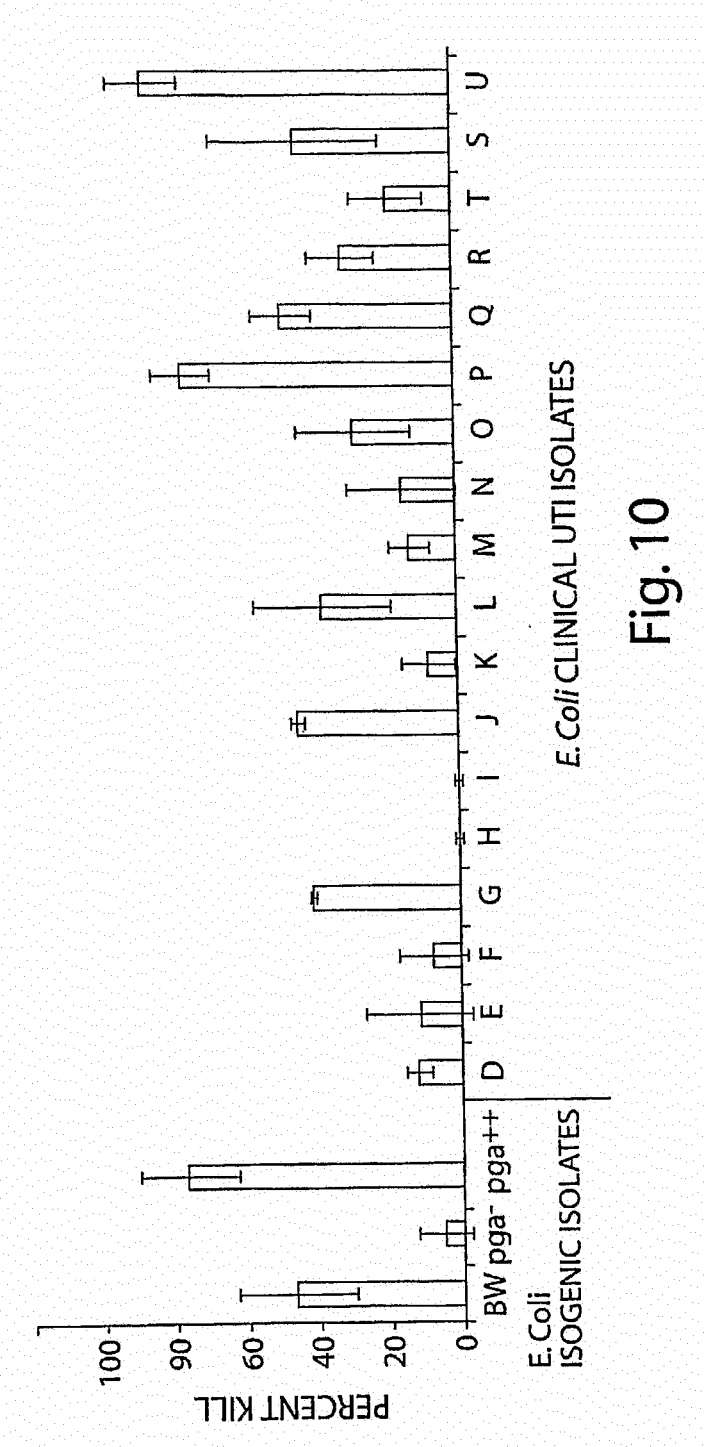


Fig. 10

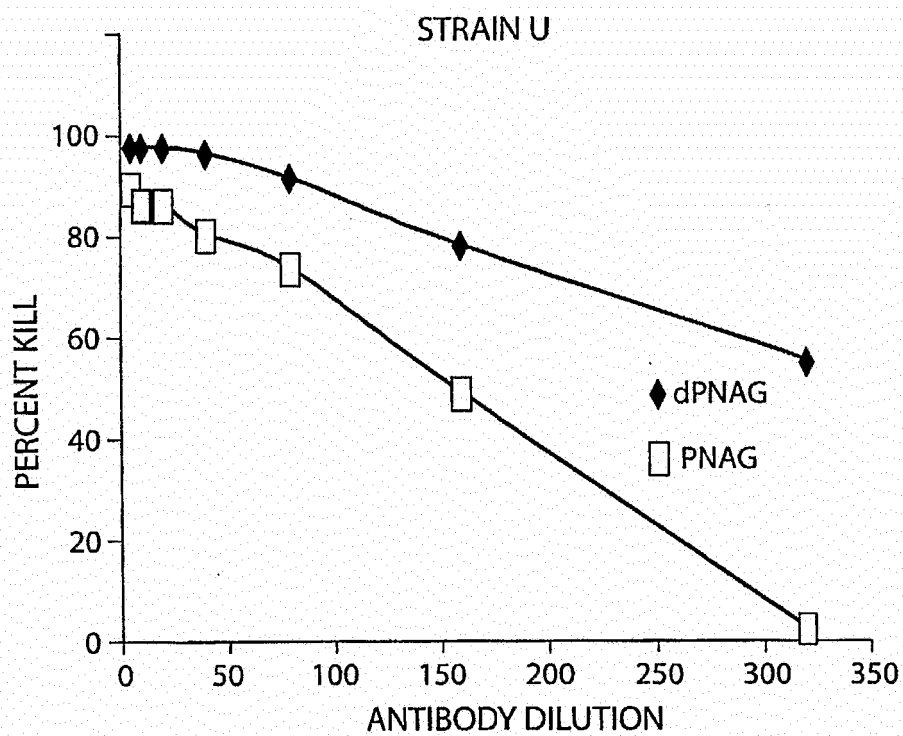


Fig. 11A

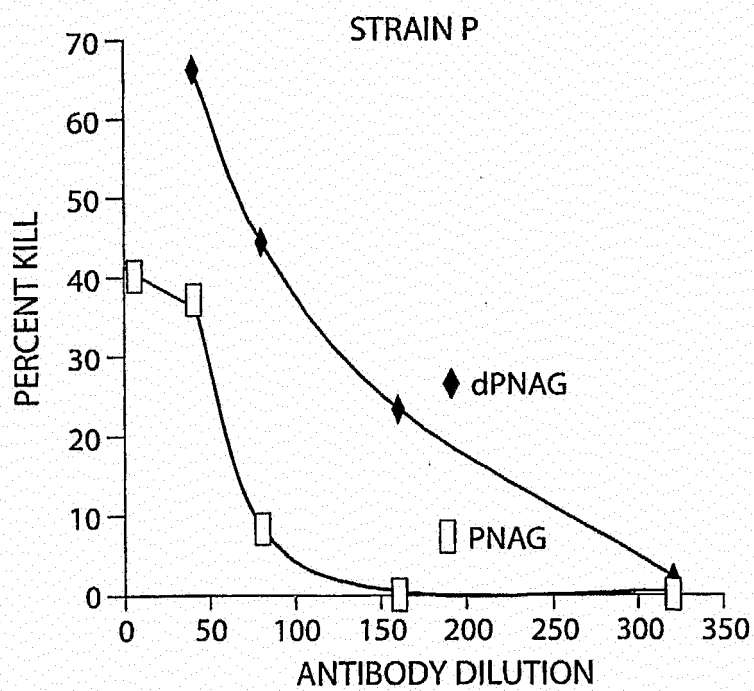


Fig. 11B

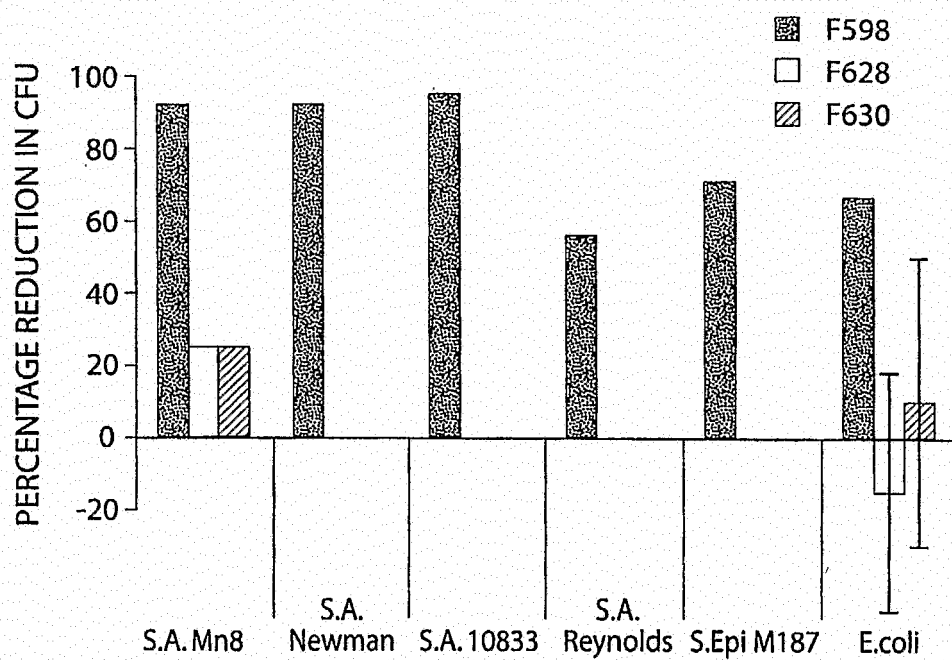


Fig. 12

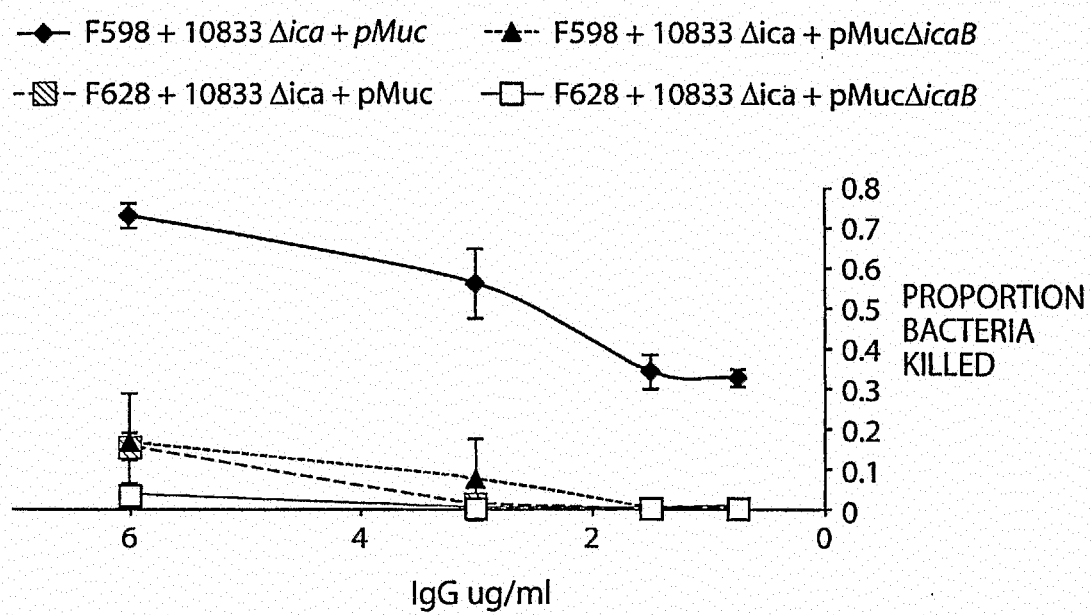
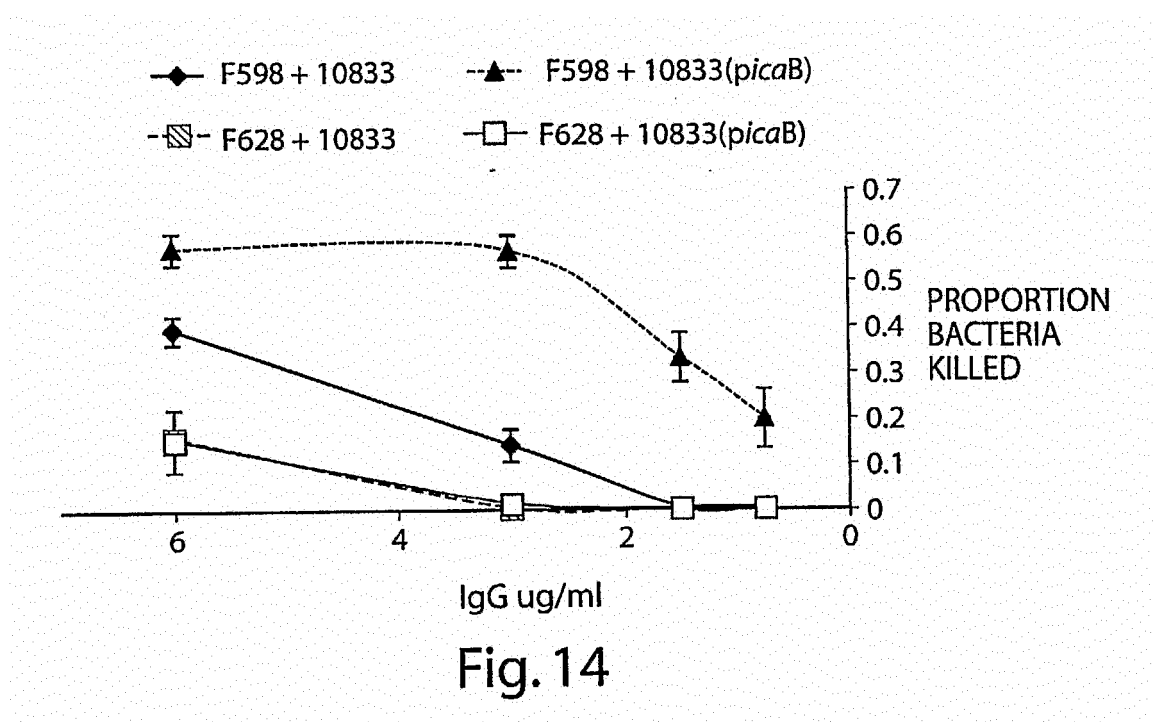


Fig. 13



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